United Nations S/2005/405

Security Council

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Letter dated 20 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of March 2005, under the presidency of Brazil (see annex).

The assessment was prepared under our responsibility following consultations with the other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ronaldo Mota **Sardenberg**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

05-39595 (E) 300605

Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Brazil (March 2005)

Introduction

The Security Council undertook a very active programme of work during the month of March 2005, under the presidency of Brazil. A total of 26 formal meetings and 19 consultations of the whole were held in this period. The result of this intensive work was reflected in the adoption of nine resolutions, including five on the reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan, and also on the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the situation in Somalia, the situation in Afghanistan and the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Furthermore, the Security Council issued five presidential statements: on the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the situation in Somalia, the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, the situation in Burundi and the situation in Guinea-Bissau. A wrap-up session on the work of the Security Council was held on 30 March, so as to discuss the African dimension in the work of the Security Council.

Africa

Burundi

On 14 March, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Carolyn McAskie, briefed the Security Council on developments in that country since November 2004, as well as on recent activities of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB). Ms. McAskie informed that events in Burundi had been positive and encouraging, in particular the referendum for the adoption of the Constitution that took place on 28 February 2005. She emphasized, however, the need for international support for the country's development, particularly in the post-transition period, when peace, reconciliation and democracy must be consolidated. International assistance for humanitarian programmes was also needed with a view to respond to the needs of thousands of refugees who were returning to the country. The Special Representative flagged the issue of the root causes of the Burundian conflict and advanced the Secretary-General's intention to make recommendations to help to address them in his next report.

In a formal meeting on that same day, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/13) welcoming the decision by the Burundian people to approve the post-transitional Constitution, through the referendum of 28 February 2005.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 24 March, the Security Council met with troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B.

The Security Council met on 28 March to hear a briefing by Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad of South Africa in his capacity as assistant facilitator of President Thabo Mbeki in his mediation efforts for peace, on behalf of the African Union. Advocate Mojanku Gumbi, President Mbeki's Legal Adviser, was also present. The Principal Deputy Special Representative for Côte d'Ivoire, Alan Doss, introduced the fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI (S/2005/186). Members expressed concern for the absence of the rule of law, in particular the proliferation of militias, and recalled the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1572 (2004), while condemning continuing violations of human rights. The need to break the political impasse and proceed with the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the organization of elections in October 2005 were also major concerns expressed by the Council. Members emphasized their appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the African Union and wished the South African mediators every success in the following summit held in April in Pretoria among the parties in Côte d'Ivoire.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

In response to an attack against a patrol of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) by the Front des Nationalistes et Intégrationnistes in Ituri, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on 25 February, that led to the murder of nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers, the Security Council adopted on 2 March, a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/10), in which it condemned with the utmost firmness the attack and welcomed the action of MONUC against the militia groups responsible for these killings and the continued robust action of MONUC in pursuit of its mandate. It also called upon the Government of National Unity and Transition to immediately take all necessary measures to bring to justice the perpetrators, sponsors and authors of the attack.

On 14 March, the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported to the Council on the work of the Committee and its deliberations regarding the recommendations submitted to it by the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in its latest report (S/2005/30). He informed that most of such recommendations had been endorsed and should be reflected in a resolution to be eventually adopted regarding the possible renewal of the Group of Experts' mandate. Among the recommendations, the establishment of a travel ban and the freeze of assets for the violators of the arms embargo were under consideration.

At separate meetings on 22 March, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, William Swing, assisted by the Deputy Force Commander of MONUC, General Patrick Cammaert, briefed the Security Council and troop-contributing countries on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, highlighting the preparation for the next elections, the reform of the security sector and the adoption of the constitution and the electoral law. The Special Representative provided further information on the Secretary-General's "zero-tolerance policy" regarding allegations of sexual abuse by MONUC personnel, and on measures being taken by MONUC, with the support of the Secretariat, to curb these practices and ensure that those responsible be brought to justice. He called upon the international community to increase its support to the Democratic Republic

of the Congo, particularly to the reform of the security sector, as well as to the holding of elections.

On 30 March, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1592 (2005), extending the mandate of MONUC until 1 October 2005, with the intention to renew it for further periods.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

On 11 March, the Security Council met with troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE).

On 14 March, the Council adopted resolution 1586 (2005), on the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea, in which it decided to extend the mandate of UNMEE until 15 September 2005 and called on both parties to refrain from any increase of troops in the areas adjacent to the Temporary Security Zone and to refrain from any threat or use of force against each other. In the same document, the Council stressed its commitment to the peace process and to the full and expeditious implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed by the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Guinea-Bissau

On 28 March, the Secretary-General's Representative in Guinea-Bissau, João Bernardo Honwaa, briefed the Security Council on the latest developments in that country and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS). He expressed concern with the present political environment, as presidential elections are scheduled to take place on 19 June 2005, particularly on the nomination of presidential candidates which may challenge the Political Transition Charter. He voiced satisfaction at the beginning of the military reintegration programme, but called for a more inclusive process. Regarding the reform of the Armed Forces, he said that UNOGBIS was fostering dialogue between the civil authorities and the military leadership, yet it still lacked the means to better fulfil its mandate, as authorized by resolution 1580 (2004). The Representative recalled the positive assessment made by international financial institutions regarding the performance of the Government of Guinea-Bissau and reiterated the call for a stronger commitment by the international community to assist Guinea-Bissau as part of an urgently needed peacebuilding strategy in that country.

On 31 March, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/14) recognizing some progress made in Guinea-Bissau and expressing, at the same time, its growing concern, particularly with the decision by the Partido da Renovação Social to select ex-President Kumba Yalá as its presidential candidate, with potential risks to the successful conclusion of the transitional process and forthcoming presidential elections. The Security Council also reiterated previous appeals for international development partners to cooperate fully with the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

Liberia

On 29 March, in informal consultations, Special Representative Jacques Klein introduced the sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2005/177) and members of the Council discussed progress in

the implementation of the key elements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, in particular with regard to October elections and the need for further international assistance to reintegration of ex-combatants. The Chairperson of the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) presented to the Security Council the Committee's views on the preliminary report of the Panel of Experts (S/2005/176) on the country's ability to establish a certification scheme compatible with the Kimberley Process. The discussion was part of the midterm review of measures prohibiting the import of rough diamonds from Liberia, as called for by resolution 1579 (2004).

Somalia

The Security Council adopted, on 7 March, a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/11), in which it welcomed the progress made in the Somali national reconciliation process, in particular the Transitional Federal Government's relocation efforts, urged all Somali factions and militia leaders to cease hostilities and reaffirmed its full support for the peace process in Somalia and the commitment of the United Nations to assist the regional and subregional efforts in this regard.

On 15 March the Council adopted resolution 1586 (2005), requesting the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992, to re-establish, for a period of six months, the Monitoring Group referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 1558 (2004). The mandate of the Group includes, inter alia, to continue investigating the implementation of the arms embargo by Member States and violations and to continue refining and updating information on the draft list of those individuals and entities who violate the measures implemented by Member States in accordance with resolution 733 (1992).

Sudan

Through the adoption of resolutions 1585 (2005) and 1588 (2005), on 10 and 17 March, respectively, the Security Council extended, for seven days each time, the mandate of the United Nations Advance Mission in the Sudan (UNAMIS), established by resolution 1547 (2004).

On 24 March, the Council adopted unanimously resolution 1590 (2005) which established the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), for an initial period of six months, consisting of up to 10,000 military personnel and an appropriate civilian component, including up to 715 civilian police personnel. According to the new resolution, all functions performed by UNAMIS were transferred to UNMIS, together with its staff and logistics. UNMIS is mandated mainly to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed on 9 January 2005 by the Government of the Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement. UNMIS shall also liaise and coordinate, at all levels, with the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) with a view towards expeditiously reinforcing the effort to foster peace in Darfur. Acting under Chapter VII, the Council also authorized UNMIS to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, in the areas of deployment of its forces, and as it deems within its capabilities.

On 29 March, the Council adopted resolution 1591 (2005), referring mainly to the situation in Darfur. The resolution establishes a committee responsible for designating individuals who will be subject to a travel ban and the freezing of

assets, also set out in the same resolution. The body will also monitor implementation of these measures, with the assistance of a group of experts to be appointed by the Secretary-General.

On 31 March, the Council adopted resolution 1593 (2005). The resolution refers the situation in Darfur since July 2002 to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and urges the Government of the Sudan and third countries to cooperate fully with the Court. The resolution also emphasizes the need for reconciliation and healing and encourages the creation of institutions which can complement judicial processes.

Americas

Haiti

On 9 March, in informal consultations, Assistant Secretary-General Hédi Annabi introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission to Haiti (S/2005/124) on major recent developments in Haiti. Mr. Annabi stressed the fact that MINUSTAH had almost reached its fully authorized strength level and had substantially enhanced its capacity to respond to security threats. Notwithstanding, he said, the security situation continued to be unstable.

In a press statement, members of the Council underlined that national reconciliation, security and economic development remained key to stability in Haiti. They stressed that successful elections hinge upon the capacity of the Transitional Government to achieve progress, with the support of MINUSTAH, in these areas during this crucial phase of the political transition. They also encouraged all Haitian political actors to continue their efforts through an inclusive national dialogue and to renounce violence to advance their goals, and called on all political parties and Haitian voters to participate in the electoral process. Council members expressed concern about the human rights situation. Members of the Council renewed their appeal for prompt disbursement of funds pledged by donors.

In a letter dated 31 March 2005, the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that members of the Security Council had decided to send a mission to Haiti from 13 to 16 April 2005, which would be led by Brazil, and would be held in conjunction with the mission of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of the Economic and Social Council.

Asia

Afghanistan

The Security Council was briefed, on 22 March, by Jean Arnault, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). Mr. Arnault recalled the announcement by Afghan electoral authorities of the date of 18 September 2005 for the holding of parliamentary and provincial elections. He affirmed that, while the security situation overall had improved since the presidential elections last October, protecting the life of United Nations staff remained a priority.

On 24 March, the Security Council adopted resolution 1589 (2005), recognizing, among the ongoing challenges in Afghanistan, the fight against narcotics, the lack of security in certain areas, terrorist threats and the need for a comprehensive nationwide disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of the Afghan Militia Forces and disbandment of illegal armed groups. Timely preparation for the parliamentary, provincial and district elections, development of Afghan Government institutions, acceleration of justice sector reform, promotion and protection of human rights, and economic and social development were other issues covered by the resolution. The Council decided to extend the mandate of UNAMA for an additional period of 12 months.

Georgia

In a private meeting, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guehenno, briefed the Security Council on 21 March, on the results of his visit to Georgia. In that opportunity, the representative of Georgia made a statement before the Council.

Iraq

On 8 March, the acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Demetrios Perricos, presented to the Council the twentieth quarterly report on the work of UNMOVIC and offered his views on how to eventually proceed towards closure on the question of Iraq's disarmament obligations.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 9 March, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/12), by which it welcomed the conclusions of the London Meeting on Supporting the Palestinian Authority, held on 1 March, and expressed the hope that the occasion would be part of longer-term international support to the Palestinian people and Authority, as well as a contribution towards the implementation of the road map endorsed by Security Council resolution 1515 (2003). The Council welcomed the comprehensive plan presented by President Mahmoud Abbas at the meeting for strengthening the Palestinian Authority's institutions in the areas of security, good governance and development of the Palestinian economy. It also reiterated its call on both Israel and the Palestinian Authority to ensure continued progress towards full implementation of the road map in direct contact with the Quartet.

On 24 March, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, delivered his monthly briefing to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East. Mr. Prendergast stressed the concern of the United Nations over Israel's failure to dismantle settlement outposts and freeze settlement expansion. Referring to the barrier under construction in the West Bank, he said that the approved route still incorporated a significant percentage of Palestinian land and had a negative effect on the livelihoods of many Palestinians. Mr. Prendergast condemned the 25 February suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, which had left five Israelis dead and injured more than 50. He recalled that the Secretary-General had called on

the Palestinian Authority to take action against those organizing and perpetrating terror and violence. It was the Quartet's position, he said, that neither the Israelis nor Palestinians should undertake actions that threatened to prejudge final status talks. He informed that the implementation of the commitments made at the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit, on 8 February continued. He said that the Secretary-General's visit to the region left him with a strong impression of Israeli Prime Minister Sharon's determination to proceed with the Disengagement Plan, even in the face of serious domestic opposition. The Secretary-General had then reiterated the position of the United Nations and the Quartet that withdrawal was not an end in itself, but an important step in a broader process, and should be consistent with the road map and its goals.

On 29 March, in informal consultations, Mr. Prendergast introduced the report (S/2005/203) of the Mission of Inquiry into the causes, circumstances and consequences of the 14 February terrorist bombing in Beirut, which was established by the Secretary-General following a request of the Council in its presidential statement of 15 February 2005 (S/PRST/2005/4). Through a letter, which endorsed the recommendations of the Mission of Inquiry, Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on the Security Council to launch an independent international investigation into the terrorist attack, which killed former Prime Minister Hariri and 19 others.

Europe

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

On 4 March, the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Dimitrij Rupel, briefed the Security Council. After recalling the lively high-level discussion about the future of the organization, he welcomed the reform debate and initiatives to further strengthen OSCE. He urged the members of the Security Council to support the organization's mediation efforts to help resolve long-standing conflicts.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In a public meeting held on 23 March, High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Paddy Ashdown, briefed the Security Council on developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the second half of 2004. He observed that the fact that the Republika Srpska had started to hand over indictees to The Hague Tribunal could indicate a change in the attitude of the Republika Srpska towards the fulfilment of its obligations. He expressed the hope that 2005 will mark Bosnia and Herzegovina's decisive break with its past by meeting the requirements for stabilization and association for the European Union and membership in the NATO Partnership for Peace.

Other issues

Wrap-up session on the work of the Security Council in the month of March

On 30 March, the Security Council held a wrap-up session on the African dimension in the work of the Security Council. Non-members of the Council were

encouraged to participate in the public meeting. A background paper (S/2005/188) was prepared under the responsibility of the Brazilian delegation, to support the discussions.

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

In a letter dated 14 March 2005, the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that members of the Security Council had agreed to extend until 31 March 2005 the nomination period for ICTY ad litem judges, in order to try to reduce the "gap" of the required number of nominations, in response to a letter of the Secretary-General dated 24 February 2005 (S/2005/127).

United Nations S/2005/406

Security Council

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Letter dated 20 June 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), which established, as a subsidiary body of the Council, the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC). Reference is also made to the related resolution 687 (1991) and 706 (1991).

Your attention is draw to the status of funds with regard to the escrow account established under the above resolutions. As of 31 December 2004, the reserves and fund balances of this account amounted to some $345.9 million. Bearing in mind the resources required to be retained in the account, it is proposed that, subject to the concurrence of the Council, a total amount of $220,256,697 be transferred from the escrow account. An amount of $200 million would be transferred to the Development Fund for Iraq and the balance, $20,256,697, would be credited against assessments issued in respect of the obligations of the Government of Iraq for regular budget, peacekeeping and Tribunal activities of the Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

05-39867 (E) 240605 240605

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Security Council

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Letter dated 24 June 2005 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council has decided to approve the proposal contained in your letter of 20 June 2005 (S/2005/406) concerning the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission escrow account established under Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) and related resolutions, to transfer from this escrow account $200 million to the Development Fund for Iraq and $20,256,697 to be credited against assessments issued in respect of the obligations of the Government of Iraq for regular budget, peacekeeping and Tribunal activities, and the capital master plan of the Organization.

(*Signed*) Jean-Marc **de La Sablière**
President of the Security Council

05-39873 (E) 240605 240605

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Security Council

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22 June 2005
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Letter dated 21 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Joint Decision of the National Assembly and the Senate, extending the duration of the Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and its annex I containing the tentative schedule of elections.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Permanent Representative
Ambassador

05-39657 (E) 270605 280605

Annex to the letter dated 21 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Democratic Republic of the Congo

National Assembly and Senate

Kinshasa/Lingwala

Joint decision

No. 001/D.C./AN/SEN/05 of 17 June 2005
on the extension of the duration of the Transition

Palais du Peuple

June 2005

Joint decision No. 001/D.S./AN/SEN/05 of 17 June 2005

Extending the duration of the transition

The National Assembly and the Senate, jointly,

In view of the Comprehensive and All-Inclusive Agreement on the Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

In view of the Transitional Constitution, in particular, its articles 97 and 196, paragraph 2,

In view of the request from the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) filed with the Offices of the National Assembly and the Senate on 15 June 2005, seeking to extend the Transition for the purpose of organizing free, democratic and transparent elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the best conditions,

Considering that, under the provisions of the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement, particularly its section IV, and of the Transitional Constitution, in particular, article 196, paragraph 1, the duration of the Transition was to be 24 months, starting from the formation of the Transitional Government and ending with the inauguration of the President of the Republic after the elections,

Further considering that, in accordance with the provisions of section IV of the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement, article 196, paragraph 2, of the Transitional Constitution provides that the National Assembly and the Senate may extend the Transition for another six months, renewable once, by a well-founded joint decision of the Senate and the National Assembly because of problems specifically linked to the organization of the elections, on the recommendation of the Independent Electoral Commission,

That, as the Transitional Government was formed on 30 June 2003, the duration of 24 months expires on 30 June 2005,

That, at this juncture in the Transition, the general feeling is that certain objectives of the Transition linked to the organization of elections, as set out by the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement, have not been fully attained, and elections culminating in the establishment of a new political and democratic order in the Democratic Republic of the Congo could not be organized during the initial Transition period,

That, as a result, the Independent Electoral Commission submitted the above request to the National Assembly and the Senate on 15 June 2005,

That the President of the Independent Electoral Commission is basing his request, in particular, on the following main reasons:

1. The technical requirements linked to the procurement of identification and voter registration materials;

2. The amount of time needed to procure and deploy material, train electoral staff, carry out voter identification and registration operations, handle disputes arising from pre-electoral operations and adopt the electoral law;

3. The need for a reasonable time period to raise awareness and mobilize the population;

4. The operational difficulties of the Independent Electoral Commission owing to, inter alia, an insufficient infrastructure and meagre budget; and

5. Logistical and security constraints,

That, despite these difficulties, the President of the Independent Electoral Commission has nonetheless recognized the unequivocal desire of the leaders of the Transitional institutions and international partners to support the Transition process and ensure its smooth conclusion,

Considering that, having examined the arguments put forward by the Independent Electoral Commission, and in view of what has already been accomplished by the Transitional institutions, particularly as regards lawmaking and government provision of logistical and financial resources with considerable help from external partners, the National Assembly and the Senate, having debated the matter, are of the view that the request by this institution supporting democracy should be honoured in order to complete the efforts already made to resolve a few outstanding problems specifically linked to the organization of the elections, in particular:

– the organization of the constitutional referendum,

– the adoption of the electoral law,

– the mobilization of material, financial and human resources,

– the full integration of the army, police and security services,

– complete restoration of government authority over the national territory, and

– the finalization of security measures essential to the protection of persons and their property;

Considering the conclusion by the National Assembly and the Senate that the conditions for extending the duration of the Transition by a well-founded joint decision on their part, laid down in article 196, paragraph 2, of the Transitional Constitution, have been met,

Considering that it is appropriate to grant an extension of the Transition period for six months as from 1 July 2005, on the recommendation of the Independent Electoral Commission, renewable once, and that this period shall expire on the inauguration of the President after the elections,

That it is also appropriate to note the tentative schedule of elections, drawn up by the Independent Electoral Commission, which the National Assembly and Senate urge national institutions and the international community to respect and scrupulously enforce,

In view of the urgency,

On the recommendation of the Independent Electoral Commission,

Decide

Article 1

The Transition period in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is extended for six months as from 1 July 2005, in accordance with article 196, paragraph 2, of the Transitional Constitution.

On the recommendation of the Independent Electoral Commission, this period shall be renewable once and shall expire on the inauguration of the President of the Republic after these elections.

Article 2

This joint decision shall enter into force on 1 July 2005 and shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done in Kinshasa, 17 June 2005.

(signature)
Mgr Pierre **Marini Bodho**
President of the Senate

(signature)
Olivier **Kamitatu Etsu**
President of the National Assembly

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Independent Electoral Commission

I.E.C.

Annex 1

Tentative schedule of elections

Independent Electoral Commission

Tentative schedule of elections

Type of election	*Duration*	*Beginning on*	*Ending on*
1. Referendum	**297 days**	**06/05/05**	**26/02/06**
1.1 Legal framework	**44 days**	**13/05/05**	**25/06/05**
1.1.1 Adoption of draft Constitution	1 day	13/05/05	13/05/05
1.1.2 Adoption of referendum law	1 day	14/06/05	14/06/05
1.1.3 Promulgation of referendum law	1 day	26/06/05	26/06/05
1.1.4 Regulations	1 day	01/06/05	01/06/05
1.2 Planning	**190 days**	**15/06/05**	**21/12/05**
1.2.1 Implementation of logistical and security plans	190 days	15/06/05	21/12/05
1.3 Administration of polling centres and stations and of compilation centres	**266 days**	**06/05/05**	**26/01/06**
1.3.1 Identification of polling stations	15 days	06/05/05	20/05/05
1.3.2 Elaboration of procedures	60 days	26/06/05	24/08/05
1.3.3 Publication of operations manuals	63 days	01/08/05	02/10/05
1.3.4 Preparation of manuals and implementation of training plan	179 days	01/08/05	26/01/06
1.3.5 Training of the polling station staff	**6 days**	**21/11/05**	**26/11/05**
1.4 Administration of electoral material	162 days	02/06/05	10/11/05
1.4.1 Design and specification of documents and electoral material	15 days	02/06/05	16/06/05
1.4.2 Procurement of electoral kits	90 days	04/07/05	01/10/05
1.4.3 Deployment of material	40 days	02/10/05	10/11/05
1.5 Notification of voters and referendum campaign	**30 days**	**28/10/05**	**26/11/05**
1.5.1 Notification of voters	1 day	28/10/05	28/10/05
1.5.2 Referendum campaign	30 days	28/10/05	26/11/05
1.6 Observation and witnesses	**125 days**	**25/07/05**	**26/11/05**
1.6.1 Accreditation of national and international observers	124 days	26/07/05	26/11/05
1.6.2 Accreditation of witnesses	125 days	25/07/05	26/11/05
1.7 Civic education, awareness-raising and information	**271 days**	**01/06/05**	**26/02/06**
1.7.1 Translation and dissemination	271 days	01/06/05	26/02/06
1.7.2 Ballots and voting procedures	59 days	01/06/05	29/07/05
1.8 Election day	**1 day**	**27/11/05**	**27/11/05**
1.9 Compilation and announcement of results by IEC	**7 days**	**28/11/05**	**04/12/05**
1.10 Disputes	**9 days**	**04/12/05**	**12/12/05**
1.11 Proclamation of results by the Supreme Court of Justice	**1 day**	**13/12/05**	**13/12/05**
1.12 Promulgation of the Constitution	**1 day**	**13/12/05**	**13/12/05**
1.13 Recovery and inventory	**10 days**	**28/11/05**	**07/12/05**
2. Other elections (National Assembly, provincial elections and first round of presidential elections)	**154 days**	**14/12/05**	**16/05/06**
2.1 Legal framework	**1 day**	**14/12/05**	**14/12/05**
2.1.1 Promulgation of the electoral law	1 day	14/12/05	14/12/05

Type of election		*Duration*	*Beginning on*	*Ending on*
2.2	**Planning**	**146 days**	**22/12/05**	**16/05/06**
2.2.1	Implementation of logistical and security plans	146 days	22/12/05	16/05/06
2.3	**Administration of polling centres and stations and of compilation centres**	**32 days**	**14/12/05**	**14/01/06**
2.3.1	Reprinting of electoral lists by polling stations	32 days	14/12/05	14/01/06
2.4	**Administration of operations**	**34 days**	**15/12/05**	**17/01/06**
2.4.1	Establishment of voting districts	11 days	15/12/05	25/12/05
2.4.2	Registration of candidates	15 days	30/12/05	13/01/06
2.4.3	Revision and publication of the list of candidates	9 days	09/01/06	17/01/06
2.4.4	Notification of voters	1 day	15/12/05	15/12/05
2.5	**Handing of voting material**	**76 days**	**08/02/06**	**24/04/06**
2.5.1	Design and publication of electoral documents (ballots, minutes, etc.)	30 days	08/02/06	09/03/06
2.5.2	Assembly and deployment of material	24 days	04/03/06	27/03/06
2.5.3	Recovery and inventory	8 days	17/04/06	24/04/06
2.6	**Electoral campaign**	**30 days**	**30/01/06**	**28/02/06**
2.7	**Observation and witnesses**	**77 days**	**30/01/06**	**16/04/06**
2.7.1	Accreditation of national and international observers	77 days	30/01/06	16/04/06
2.7.2	Accreditation of witnesses	58 days	30/01/06	28/03/06
2.8	**Civic education, awareness-raising and information**	78 days	02/01/06	20/03/06
2.9	**Balloting for all three elections**	**2 days**	**20/03/06**	**21/03/06**
2.10	**Counting of votes, compilation and provisional announcement and proclamation of results**	**20 days**	**26/04/06**	**15/05/06**
3.	**Presidential election (second round) and senatorial election (indirect election by provincial assemblies)**	**36 days**	**11/04/06**	**16/05/06**
3.1	Printing and issuance of ballots	19 days	11/04/06	29/04/06
3.2	Balloting (presidential election, second round)	1 day	30/04/06	30/04/06
3.3	Vote count and results	14 days	01/05/06	14/05/06
3.4	Compilation and announcement of provisional results	1 day	15/05/06	15/05/06
3.5	Proclamation of results	1 day	16/05/06	16/05/06

United Nations S/2005/409

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 June 2005
English
Original: French

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and statements of its President relating to the situation in Côte d'Ivoire,

Recalling also its resolutions 1561 (2004) of 17 September 2004 on the situation in Liberia and 1562 (2004) of 17 September 2004 on the situation in Sierra Leone,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Côte d'Ivoire, and *recalling* the importance of the principles of good neighbourliness, non-interference and regional cooperation,

Recalling that it endorsed the Agreement signed by the Ivorian political forces in Linas-Marcoussis on 24 January 2003 (S/2003/99) (the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement) approved by the Conference of Heads of State on Côte d'Ivoire, held in Paris on 25 and 26 January 2003, the Agreement signed in Accra on 30 July 2004 (the Accra III Agreement) and the Agreement signed in Pretoria on 6 April 2005 (the Pretoria Agreement),

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General of 17 June 2005 (S/2005/398 and S/2005/398/Add.1) and of his report of 2 March 2005 on inter-mission cooperation and possible cross-border operations between the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2005/135),

Expressing its serious concern at the continued deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation, in particular after the dramatic events that occurred in the West of the country,

Determining that the situation in Côte d'Ivoire continues to pose a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* that the mandate of UNOCI and of the French forces which support it shall be extended, in this specific instance, for a period of 7 months, until 24 January 2006;

2. *Decides* that UNOCI shall have the following mandate from the date of adoption of this resolution:

05-39855 (E) 240605

Monitoring of the cessation of hostilities and movements of armed groups

(a) To observe and monitor the implementation of the joint declaration of the end of the war of 6 April 2005 and of the comprehensive ceasefire agreement of 3 May 2003, to prevent, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment, any hostile action, in particular within the Zone of Confidence, and to investigate violations of the ceasefire,

(b) To liaise with the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) and the military elements of the Forces Nouvelles in order to promote, in coordination with the French forces, the re-establishment of trust among all the Ivorian forces involved,

(c) To assist the Government of National Reconciliation in monitoring the borders, with particular attention to the situation of Liberian refugees and to any cross-border movement of combatants,

Disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement

(d) To assist the Government of National Reconciliation in undertaking the regrouping of all the Ivorian forces involved and to assist in ensuring the security of their disarmament, cantonment and demobilization sites,

(e) To support the Government of National Reconciliation in the implementation of the national programme for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants, paying special attention to the specific needs of women and children,

(f) To coordinate closely with the United Nations missions in Sierra Leone and in Liberia in the implementation of a voluntary repatriation and resettlement programme for foreign ex-combatants, paying special attention to the specific needs of women and children, in support of the efforts of the Government of National Reconciliation and in cooperation with the Governments concerned, relevant international financial institutions, international development organizations and donor nations,

(g) To ensure that the programmes mentioned in paragraphs (e) and (f) take into account the need for a coordinated regional approach,

(h) To secure, neutralize or destroy any weapons, ammunition or any other military materiel surrendered by the former combatants,

Disarmament and dismantling of militias

(i) To assist the Prime Minister of the Government of National Reconciliation in formulating and monitoring the implementation of the Joint Operation Plan for the disarmament and dismantling of militias envisaged in article 4 of the Pretoria Agreement,

(j) To secure, neutralize or destroy all weapons, ammunition and other military materiel surrendered by militias,

Protection of United Nations personnel, institutions and civilians

(k) To protect United Nations personnel, installations and equipment, ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel and, without

prejudice to the responsibility of the Government of National Reconciliation, to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment,

(l) To support, in coordination with the Ivorian and South African authorities, the provision of security for members of the Government of National Reconciliation,

Monitoring of the arms embargo

(m) To monitor the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 7 of resolution 1572 (2004), in cooperation with the Group of Experts established under resolution 1584 (2005) and, as appropriate, with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and Governments concerned, including by inspecting, as they deem it necessary and without notice, the cargo of aircraft and of any transport vehicle using the ports, airports, airfields, military bases and border crossings of Côte d'Ivoire,

(n) To collect, as appropriate, arms and any related materiel brought into Côte d'Ivoire in violation of the measures imposed by paragraph 7 of resolution 1572 (2004), and to dispose of such arms and related materiel as appropriate,

Support for humanitarian assistance

(o) To facilitate the free flow of people, goods and humanitarian assistance, inter alia, by helping to establish the necessary security conditions and taking into account the special needs of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and elderly people,

Support for the redeployment of State administration

(p) To facilitate, with the assistance of the African Union, ECOWAS and other international partners, the re-establishment by the Government of National Reconciliation of the authority of the State throughout Côte d'Ivoire which is essential for the social and economic recovery of the country,

Support for the organization of open, free, fair and transparent elections

(q) To provide all necessary technical assistance to the Government of National Reconciliation, the Independent Electoral Commission and other relevant agencies or institutes, with the support of the African Union, ECOWAS and other international partners, for the organization of open, free, fair and transparent presidential and legislative elections within the time frames envisaged in the Constitution of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire,

(r) To provide technical information, advice and assistance as appropriate to the High Representative referred to in paragraph 7 of resolution 1603 (2005) of 3 June 2005,

(s) To contribute, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment, to the security of the areas where voting is to take place,

Assistance in the field of human rights

(t) To contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, with special attention to violence committed against children and women, to monitor and help investigate human rights violations with a view to ending impunity, and to keep the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) regularly informed of developments in this regard,

Public information

(u) To promote understanding of the peace process and the role of UNOCI among local communities and the parties, through the Mission's public information capacity, including its radio broadcasting capability,

(v) To monitor the Ivorian mass media, in particular with regard to any incidents of incitement by the media to hatred, intolerance and violence, and to keep the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) regularly informed of the situation in this regard,

Law and order

(w) To assist the Government of National Reconciliation in conjunction with the African Union, ECOWAS and other international organizations in restoring a civilian policing presence throughout Côte d'Ivoire, to advise the Government of National Reconciliation on the restructuring of the internal security services, and to assist the Ivorian parties with the implementation of temporary and interim security measures in the northern part of the country, as provided for in paragraph 6 of the Pretoria Agreement,

(x) To assist the Government of National Reconciliation in conjunction with the African Union, ECOWAS and other international organizations in re-establishing the authority of the judiciary and the rule of law throughout Côte d'Ivoire;

3. *Authorizes*, for the period specified in paragraph 1 above, an increase in the military component of UNOCI of up to 850 additional personnel as well as an increase in the civilian police component of up to a ceiling of 725 civilian police personnel, including three formed police units, and the necessary additional civilian personnel;

4. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to take all the necessary steps in order to implement as appropriate relevant measures envisaged in paragraphs 19 to 23 and in paragraph 76 (b) through (e) of his report on inter-mission cooperation and possible cross-border operations between the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire dated 2 March 2005 (S/2005/135), subject to the agreements of the troop-contributing countries and, where relevant, of the governments concerned and without prejudice to the performance of the mandates of these United Nations missions;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the agreement of the countries contributing military and civilian police personnel to UNMIL, UNAMSIL and UNOCI to redeploy such personnel as may be needed on a temporary basis to

reinforce another of the above three missions, as appropriate, taking account of the need to ensure effective performance of the current mandates of those missions;

6. *Authorizes*, subject to the necessary prior steps referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, including the agreements of the troop-contributing countries and, where relevant, the governments concerned, the temporary redeployment of military and civilian police personnel among UNMIL, UNAMSIL and UNOCI to deal with challenges which cannot be handled within the authorized personnel ceiling of a given mission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) The Secretary-General shall inform the Security Council in advance of his intention to make such a redeployment, including its scope and duration, with the understanding that the implementation of the above-mentioned reinforcement will require a corresponding decision of the Security Council,

(b) Any forces redeployed shall continue to be counted against the authorized ceiling on military and civilian personnel of the mission from which they are being transferred and shall not count against the ceiling of the mission to which they are being transferred,

(c) Any such transfer shall not result in any increase in the total combined ceilings on military and civilian personnel deployed in UNOCI, UNAMSIL and UNMIL determined by the Security Council in the respective mandates of the three missions,

(d) Any such transfer shall not have the effect of extending the deployment period of personnel deployed under the mandate of their original mission, unless the Security Council decides otherwise;

7. *Decides* to review the troop level of UNOCI by 31 December 2005, including the civilian police component, in the light of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire after the forthcoming general elections and on the basis of the tasks remaining to be carried out, with a view to further reduction as appropriate;

8. *Authorizes* UNOCI to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment;

9. *Requests* UNOCI to carry out its mandate in close liaison with the United Nations missions in Sierra Leone and in Liberia, including especially in the prevention of movements of arms and combatants across shared borders and the implementation of disarmament and demobilization programmes;

10. *Underlines* the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective in peacekeeping operations and post-conflict peacebuilding and of appropriate expertise in this regard, and *encourages* UNOCI to actively address this issue;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by UNOCI to implement the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and *urges* troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including the conduct of pre-deployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

12. *Authorizes* from the date of adoption of this resolution the French forces to use all necessary means in order to support UNOCI in accordance with the agreement reached between UNOCI and the French authorities, and in particular to:

- Contribute to the general security of the area of activity of the international forces,
- Intervene at the request of UNOCI in support of its elements whose security may be threatened,
- In consultation with UNOCI, intervene against belligerent actions, if the security conditions so require, outside UNOCI's areas of deployment,
- Help to protect civilians, in the deployment areas of their units,
- Contribute to monitoring the arms embargo established by resolution 1572 (2004) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 1584 (2005);

13. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations A/59/854–S/2005/410

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
23 June 2005

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General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda items 36 and 148

Security Council
Sixtieth year

The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 22 June 2005 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to bring to your attention the events of the last two days, which have seen a surge in Palestinian terrorist activity.

On Monday, the Israeli Defense Forces thwarted a planned suicide bombing. The would-be bomber was a 21-year-old Palestinian woman who had been entering Israel on a medical permit. She had received life saving-treatment at the Soroka Medical Center in Bar Sheva in the past and was supposedly coming to receive continued care there. Taking advantage of this, the bomber was planning to detonate herself at the Soroka Medical Center, intending to kill the same doctors and medical personnel who had saved her life in the past! As she entered the border crossing, she aroused the suspicion of Israeli security officials. When she realized that she had been discovered, she tried unsuccessfully to detonate the 10 kilograms of explosives she was carrying beneath her clothes. It is worth noting that the Palestinian Authority was given specific prior intelligence regarding this attack but did nothing to prevent it.

Perhaps more worrisome than the rise in terrorism, is the lengths to which terrorist organizations are willing to go to murder innocent Israelis. The cynical abuse of a medical permit to attempt to carry out a large-scale terrorist attack goes against every basic principle of morality, humanitarianism, decency and international law. During the past four years of the Palestinian campaign of terrorism, terrorist organizations have repeatedly used women and children to take advantage of Israel's goodwill and carry out attacks against Israeli civilians. Faced with this scourge of terrorism, Israel is forced to maintain stringent policies at its checkpoints in order to safeguard the security of its citizens. Monday's incident is just one more example of how terrorism affects not just Israelis but also Palestinians and the region as a whole.

05-39635 (E) 230605

This incident occurred on the same day that two Israelis were murdered and three wounded in other terrorist attacks. Yevgeny Reider, a 28-year-old Israeli civilian, was shot and killed by Palestinian terrorists as he was travelling to work. His 16-year-old stepson, who was with him in the car, was wounded in the incident. In a separate incident, Palestinian terrorists attacked an Israeli Defense Force Engineers Corps working on the "Philadelphi" route in the Gaza Strip. Three soldiers were wounded in the attack, one of whom died of his wounds.

The continued use of terrorism by Palestinian terrorist organizations threatens to further destabilize the region and make the prospects for peace even more distant. In the Gaza Strip alone, the average number of terrorist attacks per week has risen to a range of 50 to 80, as opposed to an average of 10 to 15 in early February.

Israel cannot be expected to continue the many efforts it is undertaking to advance the peace process, while Palestinian terrorists cynically take advantage of those gestures to attack Israeli civilians. The Palestinian Authority must immediately fulfil its obligations and take all necessary steps to prevent and eliminate terrorist activity and create an atmosphere in which peace can be pursued.

Israel urges the international community to reaffirm its absolute rejection of terrorist tactics and to accept nothing less than the complete dismantling of terrorist organizations, as well as unyielding efforts to prevent terrorism and bring its perpetrators and supporters to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 148, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daniel **Carmon**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2005/411

Security Council

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23 June 2005

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 1590 (2005) of 24 March 2005, the Security Council expressed its determination to help the people of the Sudan to promote national reconciliation, lasting peace and stability and to build a prosperous and united Sudan in which human rights are respected and the protection of all citizens is assured. Recognizing that international support for implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is critically important, the Council responded positively to the request of the parties to the Agreement and decided to establish the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). Through my Special Representative for the Sudan, I was requested, inter alia, to coordinate all activities of the United Nations system in the Sudan, to facilitate coordination with other international actors of activities in support of the transitional process established by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to provide good offices and political support for efforts to resolve all ongoing conflicts in the Sudan.

2. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 1590 (2005), provides an assessment of the overall situation in the country since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 9 January 2005 and sets out the context for the implementation process and the establishment of UNMIS. It also provides an update on the implementation of the Agreement by the parties since my previous report to the Council on the Sudan (S/2005/57) and outlines the progress made to date and the challenges encountered in establishing a United Nations mission in the Sudan.

II. Implementation of the major elements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

3. In my report of 31 January 2005, I set out the key elements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and indicated the daunting challenges awaiting the parties and those assisting them in the implementation phase. I also noted that political solutions would have to be found for violent and unstable regions, in particular Darfur.

4. By signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the parties have set very high standards for their own performance during implementation. The Agreement is a programme of major change. The Government of the Sudan and the Sudan

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Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) agreed to share responsibility, over a period of six and a half years, for creating a new model of governance by restructuring the political system on the principles of democracy and respect for human rights; fundamental change in legal, economic and political systems to ensure fair access to national resources and wealth; and redressing the social and cultural injustices accumulated through decades of civil war, underdevelopment and neglect of the population in the marginalized areas of the Sudan. These challenges are enormous and require from the two parties full mobilization of their institutional capacity, human resources and political will.

5. While the two parties have not been able to adhere strictly to the timetable they set for the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, they have fulfilled their commitments and demonstrated a realistic appreciation of the tasks involved as well as respect for the expectations of the Sudanese people for peace after more than two decades of war.

6. Although the Comprehensive Peace Agreement sets out a broad framework for an inclusive implementation process, efforts to bring other political parties into it have only begun. Many of the political players in the north, as well as some forces in the south, have been hesitant to commit themselves to an agreement they were not party to and especially to the governance and wealth-sharing arrangements stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

7. After months of effort and inconclusive talks, at a meeting of the National Democratic Alliance and the Government held in Cairo on 18 June 2005 under the auspices of Egypt and including the presence of John Garang, Chairman of SPLM/A, an agreement was finalized that will enable the Alliance to participate in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. In another example of broadening engagement in the Agreement, the South-South Dialogue Conference, organized by the Moi African Institute, was held in Nairobi from 18 to 21 April and was attended by more than 100 political leaders and representatives of civil society. The delegates signed a covenant pledging to defend the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and declared their commitment to a process of reconciliation and national healing. They also adopted a number of resolutions that addressed various steps to be taken in support of the implementation of the Agreement. While the achievements of the conference are important, adequate follow-up will be essential, particularly in the convening of a meeting with armed groups still outside the process. Notwithstanding the non-participation of some parties, modest gains have been made during the past three months, including the return of members of the Sudanese political diaspora. However, more needs to be done to encourage this trend, including the release of all political detainees as called for in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. At the same time, on 1 June 15 Sudanese political opposition parties, including the Umma National Party and the Popular National Congress, signed a political declaration pledging to work together, but not in the context of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

8. Now, at the end of the pre-interim period of six months, the parties can rightly claim that some progress has been achieved in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Following its establishment in Nairobi on 9 March, the Joint National Transition Team started to carry out its duties related to the implementation of the Agreement. The Transition Team played a crucial role in preparing for the establishment of Government at the national, southern Sudan and state/regional

levels. It also developed fund-raising strategies for the smooth and timely commencement of the interim period, for example by finalizing the joint Government-SPLM/A position for the donors' conference held in Oslo on 11 April 2005.

9. In addition, a large SPLM/A advance delegation arrived in Khartoum on 2 April to establish the Movement's presence in the capital. Some members of the delegation have been working with the Government on a variety of issues, while others travelled to key areas of southern Sudan currently under Government control to establish SPLM/A political structures and begin working with the National Congress Party and local authorities.

10. After a slow start, the inauguration of the National Constitutional Review Commission on 30 April represented an important step forward in the implementation process. Composed of representatives from the Government, SPLM/A and some northern- and southern-based political opposition parties, the Commission has met in both Khartoum and Rumbek. During my recent visit to the region, I had an opportunity to speak to Commission members in Rumbek and encouraged them to complete their work, as the quality of the interim constitution will strongly influence the success of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in areas such as protection of the human rights of the Sudanese people. The Commission is expected to conclude its work by the end of June, paving the way for the establishment of the Government of National Unity and the swearing-in of the new Presidency, comprising Omar Bashir as President, John Garang as First Vice-President and Ali Osman Taha as Second Vice-President. However, the absence of prominent political parties from the Commission is a cause for some concern. The Government and SPLM/A should redouble their efforts to demonstrate an inclusive approach in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement so that all Sudanese feel ownership of the process, and the other parties should grasp the opportunity before them to become fully involved in building the Sudan's future institutions. I stressed this message when I met with Vice-President Taha during my recent visit to the Sudan.

11. Another issue which requires particular attention is the handling of the Abyei area. The parties agreed that the Abyei area is a bridge between the north and the south. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement provides for a special procedure to address the issue of Abyei by according special administrative status to the territory during the interim period. In early March, the Abyei Boundaries Commission was constituted in Nairobi and visited the area in April and May 2005. The Commission was supported by a group of international resource persons who provided it with an assessment of the Abyei issue. Its report will be submitted in June. I am, however, concerned that the activities of the Commission in Abyei were obstructed by rogue elements who were the cause of a number of security incidents that could, and should, have been prevented.

12. Numerous armed groups in southern Sudan, either allied with the parties or acting independently, present a potential or immediate security threat to the population and the international personnel on the ground. If this factor is not properly addressed by the parties, these groups might become spoilers during the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The parties have agreed to expedite the process of incorporation and integration of the allied militias within one year of signing the Agreement. To address this issue, SPLM and the

Government have had an initial meeting of the Collaborative Committee of Other Armed Groups. Since then, no further meetings have been held, nor has progress been made on a related task — the establishment of the incorporation and reintegration ad hoc committees. It is hoped that the Collaborative Committee will resume its activities without delay. As a permanent observer to the Collaborative Committee, UNMIS is fully prepared to support the Committee in its work. The positive outcome of the South-South Dialogue will also have a significant impact on the work of both committees, which will find difficulty in attaining their objectives outside of the Dialogue.

13. From the date of signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the parties have agreed to launch and sustain during the interim period an information campaign in all languages to popularize the Agreement and foster national unity, reconciliation and mutual understanding. The Joint Media Commission, established by the parties in early March, has held a number of meetings in Nairobi and Khartoum. Its activities are expected in particular to improve the population's awareness of the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, address the issue of hostile propaganda and help develop a cooperative relationship between the two parties in the area of public information. The parties have agreed to collaborate on the dissemination of the Agreement to the Sudanese people. SPLM has conducted a tour of the territories under its control explaining the effect of the Agreement. The Government has begun a similar tour and has made available CD-ROM copies of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Copies of the Agreement are widely available for purchase in markets. However, despite these efforts, awareness of the Agreement and its provisions remains limited outside Khartoum.

14. UNMIS has initiated contacts senior Government and SPLM/A representatives on the Joint Media Commission to explore means by which the Mission can support the parties in their responsibility to disseminate information about the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. UNMIS has prepared an explanatory booklet, in simplified language, about the rights and responsibilities of the people under the Agreement. Draft copies of the booklet have been shared with members of the Joint Media Commission. UNMIS has also initiated a series of round-table meetings between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and key journalists and columnists in the national media to explain the Agreement and the role that UNMIS is requested to play in support of the peace process.

15. Vast areas in southern Sudan are severely polluted by mines and unexploded ordnance. While the Government has the requisite capacity and expertise to deal with the issue, SPLM/A does not. However, the parties were able to overcome their lack of mutual trust on this sensitive security issue and developed a coordinated national strategy on mine action. Southern and northern mine action mechanisms and the related United Nations coordinating mechanism have been formed, but resources for implementing effective mine action are still limited. It is imperative that the international community support the parties across the whole spectrum of demining activities, as restoration of secure transportation lines is important for the safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons and for economic recovery and rehabilitation, particularly in the agricultural and construction sectors.

16. In accordance with chapter VI of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, concerning arrangements, the parties have undertaken to form joint integrated units to be deployed in the ceasefire areas and in Khartoum. The Government has

reportedly identified all of its participants for the units while SPLM has identified some. The Government and SPLA have held discussions in the Nuba Mountains on the formation of the units in Southern Kordofan. However, there has been no action so far on disengagement and separation of forces associated with this task throughout the ceasefire zone.

17. Providing UNMIS with the latest and full information on the deployment and composition of their forces is one of the main responsibilities of the parties identified by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Information on forces in Southern and Western Kordofan has been made available to UNMIS by the joint military commission deployed in the Nuba Mountains since April 2002. However, while the Government has provided full details of its forces in other ceasefire areas, SPLM has not yet done so.

18. In the past, the parties have demonstrated their commitment to the Agreement on the Temporary Cessation of Hostilities signed in October 2002. They continued to respect the ceasefire obligations after the signing of the Permanent Ceasefire Agreement on 31 December 2004. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1590 (2005), no ceasefire violation report has been formally submitted to UNMIS by the Government or SPLM/A. However, in the Nuba Mountains, the Government has lodged 19 complaints with the joint military commission, of which six were sustained and three remain unresolved. SPLA lodged 10 complaints, of which two were sustained and two are unresolved. The complaints pertain primarily to troop movements, harassment and violence directed at civilians and arbitrary detentions.

19. Regarding the release of prisoners of war, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had previously identified 750 prisoners under SPLM control. Some 150 have already been released, although without the participation of ICRC, which is required by the Permanent Ceasefire Agreement. It should be recalled that the Chairman of SPLM/A made a public statement during the signing ceremony on 9 January that all prisoners of war would be released immediately. Five months into the pre-interim period, some of them are still detained. It is imperative that all remaining prisoners be released without delay, in coordination with ICRC. The Government, for its part, has stated that it does not hold any prisoners of war and has signed a memorandum of understanding with ICRC to coordinate and mediate on these issues. SPLM however has refused to sign the memorandum of understanding, apparently in protest that ICRC has not enquired into the Government's assertion that it has no detainees.

20. Many mechanisms and structures envisaged by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, such as the Presidency, can only be established after the adoption of the Interim National Constitution. This approach re-emphasizes the primacy of law in the overall reconciliation and reconstruction strategy of the Agreement. Consequently, many of the core institutions that are vital for the success of the implementation could not be legally established before the creation of judicial and executive branches at the national level. That explains why bodies such as the Ceasefire Political Commission, the Joint Defence Board, the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, the National Land Commission, the National Human Rights Commission, the National Petroleum Commission and some key institutions at the level of southern Sudan and the states have yet to be launched. These institutions can be established only by the two parties working together and ensuring

that other political forces and groups are included, as provided for in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

III. Implementation of the UNMIS mandate

21. The mandate of UNMIS reflects the breadth and complexity of challenges facing the parties as they implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The Security Council has clearly given my Special Representative the lead role in coordinating the activities of the United Nations in the Sudan, a task he performs regularly through various mechanisms, including his leadership of the United Nations country team; mobilizing resources and support from the international community for immediate assistance and long-term economic development; facilitating coordination, with other actors, of activities in support of the transition process established by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement; and providing good offices and political support for efforts to resolve all ongoing conflicts in the Sudan. With the parties having entered a critical stage in addressing power-sharing and security arrangements, UNMIS, led by my Special Representative, continues to carry out its broad mandate with the overarching goal of supporting implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in its entirety.

22. Close cooperation between the parties and UNMIS is crucial to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. During my meetings in the Sudan late in May with the First Vice-President, Ali Osman Taha, and the Chairman of SPLM, John Garang, I was reassured of their commitment to interact with UNMIS in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Agreement. The parties provided similar assurances to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, and to my Special Adviser, Lakdhar Brahimi, when they visited the Sudan in early May.

23. The security environment in the Sudan, including in the south, the three transition areas, eastern Sudan and Darfur, remains unsettled. Violence related to economic and political grievances, clan fighting, militia clashes and cattle looting all contributed to the suffering of the population and impaired humanitarian access.

24. Incidents of banditry are increasing in areas that do not usually see such occurrences. Areas previously assessed as safe for operations by United Nations entities are now under scrutiny as cooperation between former warring factions has deteriorated. There has also been an increase in tension in areas where oil exploration and extraction activities are taking place. The areas of Abyei, Malakal and Bentiu/Rubkona remain volatile, with the local population and returnees in all three areas suffering from an insecure environment caused by militia activity.

Military aspects

25. The deployment of the UNMIS military elements commenced in the first week of April with the arrival of United Nations staff officers of the force headquarters and the integrated support services of the Mission in Khartoum. This enabled the force headquarters in Khartoum and the Joint Monitoring Coordination Office responsible for support to the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee in Juba to achieve initial operating capability on 8 May 2005, in accordance with the terms of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

26. At the time of drafting of the present report, 115 military staff officers, 127 United Nations military observers and 579 troop-contributing country personnel (the Nepalese contingent and the engineering platoons of India and Bangladesh), totalling 821 all ranks, were deployed in the mission area.

27. The timely deployment of UNMIS is essential to support the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Mounting this large and complex operation in a vast country like the Sudan, as I have indicated in previous reports, is a major challenge. Unfortunately, a number of factors have caused delays in the deployment of peacekeepers to southern Sudan. Chief among these has been changes in the composition of the force at the request of SPLM/A and the inability of the troop-contributing countries to meet adjusted deployment plans. In some cases, the Government has been unresponsive in providing land for the military camps, while the SPLM/A authorities have yet to operationalize their policy on the issue of land allocation for UNMIS.

28. The delay in deployment has been compounded by the lack of a signed status-of-forces agreement. UNMIS, in coordination with United Nations Headquarters, has been engaged in consultations with the two parties on a status-of-forces agreement as called for by the Security Council. These consultations are now in the final stage and the parties have reassured the Secretariat that the process would be concluded before 9 July 2005. Finally, the onset of the rains has created another serious obstacle to deployment by making transportation and all other logistical and preparatory activities tremendously difficult.

29. While the deployment of military staff officers for the force headquarters and of United Nations military observers required for carrying out verification and monitoring tasks remains broadly on target, the factors mentioned above have seriously restricted the number of United Nations military observers that the Mission has been able to deploy forward. At the same time, the delay in troop-contributing country deployment has left sector headquarters without the necessary security and medical coverage required to deploy substantial numbers of United Nations military observers, police and civilian personnel to the field. As a consequence, the deployment plan is currently under revision. It is expected that commercial medical teams will be deployed to the region at the end of June to provide interim medical support prior to the arrival of troop-contributing country medical capabilities. However, the decision on the revised deployments will be taken only after a careful review of the security situation and safety conditions, including the casualty treatment and medical evacuation capabilities available.

30. It should be recalled that in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement the parties assigned the United Nations the task of chairing the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee. In the first meeting of the Committee on 8 May 2005, chaired by the UNMIS Force Commander, the parties participated as observers. At the second meeting, held on 24 May, the parties reaffirmed their commitment to abide by the procedures listed in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The parties affirmed their full support for the implementation of the Agreement and expressed their willingness to work jointly in the area of mine action. At the third meeting of the Committee, held on 7 June, the parties accepted a list of tasks, based on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, as the basis for future deliberations in the Committee. They also decided on a wide range of issues, including the collection of information on the size and composition of their forces and issues related to

prisoners of war and other detainees. The Government confirmed that it had issued instructions to stop all national service recruitment and training within the areas covered by the Permanent Ceasefire Agreement.

31. In accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the joint military committee operating in the Nuba Mountains and the verification and monitoring team operating in southern Sudan have, thanks to support from donor countries, continued to carry out verification and monitoring tasks in their respective areas of responsibility under the operational control of UNMIS. The joint military committee was phased out as planned on 20 June and its responsibilities handed over to UNMIS. The verification and monitoring team is expected to continue with its mission until such time as UNMIS is fully operational in southern Sudan. Both mechanisms have been performing their tasks well.

32. The United Nations military observers deployed in the sectors have established liaison with the parties and are conducting limited patrols. The Nepalese contingent has completed its deployment to Kassala (eastern Sudan), established the redeployment coordination headquarters and carried out the required liaison with the parties for the creation of the area joint military committee. The parties have yet to nominate their representatives for the military committee at Kassala and, during its last meeting, the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee decided to address the matter at the earliest possible opportunity.

Rule of law

33. Progress is being made by United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in engaging SPLM/A and the Government on rule of law issues through policy dialogue, awareness raising and capacity-building at both central and state levels. At the state level, an international rule of law presence has been established in Darfur, the three conflict areas and southern Sudan. However, it will be feasible to substantively address the independence of the judiciary and legal reform only after the Interim National Constitution is adopted and the National Judiciary Service Commission is established.

Civilian police

34. To assist the parties in promoting the rule of law and law enforcement, United Nations civilian police have developed good relations with both parties' police forces. Significant constraints have been experienced in relation to the availability of sector and forward team locations, causing a slowing in the anticipated rate of deployment. These delays notwithstanding, it has been possible to establish an operational presence in Juba and the Juba sector team began patrols in the area within two days of its arrival. Although a "residential" presence has not yet been established outside Juba, regular confidence-building and familiarization patrols are made to Yei, Rumbek and Torit. Sector II (Wau) is now managed from Juba, and this arrangement will continue until such time as it is possible to deploy at the location. At the time of writing, 33 civilian police officers were deployed in the mission area.

35. While both parties have agreed to a meeting of police at the most senior levels, no such meeting has yet taken place. UNMIS has suggested that a joint senior police committee be formed to deal with policy questions at the highest operational level. The first meeting of the committee is planned to take place in Juba late in June.

Earlier in the month, 40 SPLM nominees commenced a six-month basic training course for police personnel. United Nations police have met representatives from the Government police in order to identify training programmes and the needs for future police training in the Sudan. A programme of community-police engagement has also been launched with a focus on building confidence and establishing trust with young people.

Return of internally displaced persons and refugees

36. The voluntary and safe return of displaced persons, in conditions of dignity, is of crucial importance for the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. However, the conditions for a large-scale, organized return are still not in place. The spontaneous return of internally displaced persons and refugees is nevertheless ongoing, and the number may well reach into the hundreds of thousands this year. This is due partly to increased trust in the peace process but also results from political pressure and the demolition of settlements of internally displaced persons in Khartoum. For example, on 18 May, violent clashes occurred in the Soba Aradi camp in south Khartoum, prompted by the Government's unfortunate attempt to relocate the camp's population. The clashes resulted in the tragic deaths of about 14 policemen and an unconfirmed number of civilians.

37. Although spontaneous returns of internally displaced persons to the south peaked in February-March and began to decrease in May with the onset of the rains, recipient communities have been under increasing pressure as more returnees have arrived. Some returnees stranded en route by rains are also in need of humanitarian assistance. The illegal taxation of both returnees and humanitarian vehicles by various militias is an ongoing concern in this regard.

38. The United Nations intends to provide a broad range of services and support to those populations who choose to return spontaneously. Consistent policies and coordination between the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the United Nations and partners is crucial to avoid a fragmented and piecemeal response to returns. In order to rapidly scale up the returns, resettlement and reintegration programme, UNMIS established a core Group on Returns, which has produced an operational plan to support spontaneous returns, including humanitarian assistance and protection in areas of displacement, en route and in places of arrival.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

39. The Sudanese and the international community will need to focus their efforts on promoting a far-reaching disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and reconciliation process. The overarching objective of the programme in the Sudan is to help create an environment conducive to improved human security and to support post-peace agreement social stabilization across the Sudan, as well as to operationalize, at the grass-roots level, the process of national reconciliation throughout the country. Even before the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the parties were able to improve the political climate within which action on disarmament and demobilization can take place. Following the signing of the Agreement, the parties appointed interim authorities for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, which are currently establishing regional offices and deploying field officers. The interim authorities have developed a draft policy

document based on the Agreement with the technical assistance of UNMIS, UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund.

40. An interim disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, covering the period from mid-2005 to mid-2006, was also prepared by the Government and SPLM interim authorities with support from the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Unit of UNMIS. The programme has been submitted for approval by the Government and SPLM leadership.

41. It is now critical that both parties fully disclose the status of their armed forces, as agreed in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, to enable UNMIS to assist them in the preparation of a full-fledged disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme for 2006. The special needs of women who have played a role (formally or informally, voluntarily or involuntarily) during the conflict will be carefully addressed to ensure that they are included in the process.

Protection of civilians

42. The protection of civilians throughout the Sudan continues to be a major challenge for the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as well as for the international community. It is not possible for the United Nations to protect all Sudanese civilians under threat; this is the obligation of the relevant authorities. The United Nations and partners are focusing their attention on vulnerable groups, such as returning populations and those in volatile areas. The need for action has already been demonstrated by reports of extortion of returnees, looting of their possessions, physical attacks, sexually based violence and forced conscription along return routes. Peacekeeping patrols will be used to support the parties in ensuring the protection of civilians, while United Nations civilian police deployments will lend expert support to law enforcement entities throughout the country and, where necessary, for policymaking in law enforcement.

Mine action

43. United Nations mine action activities aimed at supporting mission deployment focused on the clearance of the Lokkichoggio-Kapoeta-Torit-Juba road, the Yei-Juba road, and the Malakal-Kosti road as well as on general coordination between the UNMIS military component, United Nations agencies and national and local authorities. The plan is to open the strategically important Yei-Juba road around 9 July. However, the start of the rainy season and difficulties in cross-line movements have slowed down the pace of activities. Due to limited resources, humanitarian mine action was mainly conducted in the Nuba Mountains, Rumbek, Yei, Kapoeta and El Fashir. An immediate expansion of survey, clearance and mine risk education capacities is vital to allow the local population to resume their economic activities, to facilitate the sustainable return of internally displaced persons and refugees and to enable humanitarian aid agencies to operate without the threat of mines and unexploded ordnance.

Human rights

44. UNMIS has begun consultations with the parties and non-governmental organizations to develop programmes to support the implementation of human rights elements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including the establishment of a national human rights commission for the promotion and protection of human rights.

45. UNMIS has also accelerated the deployment of United Nations human rights personnel to Darfur. There are now 41 international human rights officers, including 10 international United Nations Volunteers, deployed in the region. These staff monitor human rights violations in Darfur and bring them to the attention of the authorities and the United Nations. They provide assistance to victims, follow up on cases and work with local authorities and other stakeholders in order to enhance the protection of the human rights of civilians. In addition to the work of human rights officers on the ground, UNMIS often engages the Government and other stakeholders in dialogue to address major obstacles to the improvement of the human rights situation in Darfur and to assist the Government, when necessary, in redressing violations. UNMIS is now exploring appropriate ways of establishing effective civilian protection teams in Darfur, including through cooperation with the African Union Mission in the Sudan. UNMIS is expecting the number of human rights officers in Darfur to increase to 65 during July, despite logistical and security constraints on deployment.

HIV/AIDS

46. UNMIS embarked on the implementation of its HIV/AIDS programme in accordance with the plan of action prepared by the Mission. A Mission-wide task force to coordinate activities in the HIV/AIDS area has been established. Several hundred United Nations staff, both civilian and military, have attended sensitization sessions as part of their induction training. UNMIS coordinates its activities with other stakeholders, including the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS UNAIDS and the Sudan national AIDS programme, and provides various other actors with technical support in this area.

Gender

47. The protracted conflict in the Sudan has taken a particularly heavy toll on women. As part of its efforts to address gender inequalities and mobilize women's participation in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, UNMIS has initiated training programmes on gender concepts for Sudanese counterparts. UNMIS pre-deployment training included instruction on gender sensitivities in the context of the diverse cultural environment of the Sudan.

Code of conduct

48. The overarching goal of the United Nations for its personnel, both military and civilian, is to ensure that they conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects the utmost respect for Sudanese customs and traditions and above all the Sudanese people.

49. In the area of sexual exploitation and abuse, UNMIS has a special section in the induction training programme for all new personnel, military and civilian, defining and explaining the Secretary-General's bulletin of 9 October 2003 (ST/SGB/2003/13) and the United Nations policy of zero tolerance. UNMIS has also initiated a programme of outreach to the most vulnerable sector of Sudanese society — destitute women and children. A series of meetings, including a three-day community workshop, has been held in Juba and will be replicated in all areas of UNMIS deployment in order to explain the United Nations policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse, to identify points of contact within UNMIS where

allegations of violations can be reported, and to utilize networks within Sudanese society to help protect vulnerable women and children.

Public information

50. UNMIS is helping the parties to promote an understanding of the peace process and to disseminate the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. UNMIS has also initiated activities to raise the population's awareness of its role in the implementation of the Agreement. Consultations have begun with the Media Commission, in which the parties to the Agreement are represented, concerning the type of assistance UNMIS can provide to the parties on the dissemination of further explanatory information at the community level. In addition, UNMIS has led a multidisciplinary assessment team to the eastern part of the country to explain the role of UNMIS, as defined in the Agreement and in resolution 1590 (2005), to community leaders and to assess attitudes towards the United Nations military and civilian presence. Similar missions to other sensitive areas of the country will follow.

51. UNMIS plans to establish a radio station that will broadcast news and current affairs programmes and provide a platform for dialogue within and between Sudanese communities and with the Mission. UNMIS has started training Sudanese nationals for positions in the radio station. Editorial policies are in place and programme scheduling has started. UNMIS radio will start production in August in Khartoum and commence broadcasting at the beginning of September. A relay station in Juba and additional short wave coverage in other regions of the Sudan will be initiated at the same time as transmission in Khartoum. Production of specialized programming for the south is scheduled to start in October.

52. Consultations have taken place over recent months with the Ministry of Information, the Sudan Radio and Television Corporation and the National Telecommunications Corporation. The telecommunications corporation has agreed in principle to assign a requested frequency for UNMIS radio, pending political approval by the Council of Ministers and the Sudan Radio and Television Corporation as the current licensing agency. The approval has not yet been given. SPLM has generally been cooperative with UNMIS radio and a technical committee has been set up at the Mission's request to discuss radio in southern Sudan. Further progress for UNMIS radio is expected after the Government of National Unity is installed and the status-of-forces agreement is signed.

Support from donors

53. The authorities, humanitarian partners and the population at large hold very high expectations of the peace process and the speed of its implementation. Against requirements of $1.56 billion outlined in the United Nations workplan for 2005, donors have provided some $748 million to date. This amount falls short of what is required to carry out essential United Nations responsibilities in the Sudan. Of particular concern is the 27 per cent response to the needs in the south and the 13 per cent response for other areas of the Sudan, which notably include the critical transition areas and the east, where conflict threatens. The World Food Programme has still only received about 25 per cent of required funding and has borrowed approximately $40 million from other operations to support southern Sudan

activities. The funding shortfall for food is matched in other sectors, with only 26 per cent of requirements for southern Sudan met at the time of writing.

Freedom of movement

54. Free access for all UNMIS personnel and staff of United Nations agencies and programmes is required for successful implementation of the Security Council mandate. Recent discussions with the parties have opened the way for approval of scheduled United Nations flights across what had traditionally been considered the front lines of the north/south conflict. The humanitarian arm of SPLM/A, the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC), dropped the requirement for staff of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations with Sudanese visas to travel from the north to the south with special SRRC permits. The Government no longer requires special clearance for United Nations humanitarian staff and their partners with the SRRC permits, or Sudanese visas to travel anywhere else within the Sudan.

55. Progress was made recently in preparing for the transfer of the overall management of humanitarian operations in the south to the United Nations and SRRC. The United Nations facilitated the first meeting in the post-peace agreement period between the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission and SRRC. This meeting resulted in a reaffirmation of their commitment to the agreed policy framework on returns and the establishment of joint coordination mechanisms, and paved the way for cross-line humanitarian operations. The first cross-line distribution of assistance to both SPLM and Government-controlled areas by a north-south team including the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and the Government was carried out in May 2005.

Composition of UNMIS

56. As at 21 June, the Mission has on board 351 international staff, 60 of whom are on temporary duty, 430 national staff and 27 international United Nations Volunteers. The recruitment of an additional 130 international staff who have been selected is currently in progress. Some 180 national staff are under recruitment, and additional United Nations Volunteers have been selected.

IV. The United Nations role in Darfur

57. As stipulated in resolution 1590 (2005), since its establishment, UNMIS has liaised and coordinated closely at all levels with the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) to reinforce African Union-led efforts to foster peace in Darfur, especially with regard to the Abuja peace process and through logistical support and technical assistance to AMIS. In Khartoum, my Special Representative and the Special Representative of the African Union Chairperson in the Sudan are working together with a singularity of purpose to support efforts aimed at reaching a political settlement to the conflict in Darfur and ensuring its integration in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement process. In Addis Ababa, a United Nations assistance cell, which is part of UNMIS, is working on a daily basis with the African Union Commission and partners, providing logistical and planning advice for the African Union task force responsible for AMIS deployment. On the ground,

UNMIS has deployed military and police liaison officers to AMIS headquarters in El Fashir.

58. The consolidation of UNMIS offices in Darfur contributed to broadening cooperation with AMIS beyond political cooperation and military planning. Cooperation now includes concerted effort in the domain of humanitarian assistance and the protection of human rights. AMIS provides escort to humanitarian assistance convoys when requested by the United Nations on the ground. It has also been agreed that AMIS would provide escort and protection for UNMIS human rights officers who need to travel to areas of conflict, which are usually the areas where the most grave human rights violations occur and have thus far been inaccessible to UNMIS human rights personnel. UNMIS human rights officers will also provide briefings to AMIS personnel on human rights issues and share information with AMIS when its intervention could contribute to more effective protection against human rights violations. UNMIS and AMIS are also planning to establish cooperation on public information, including through launching a joint public information campaign in Darfur.

59. UNMIS has been following closely and supporting the African Union-led efforts to restart the political talks at Abuja since the last round was interrupted in December 2004. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and his team have been in close contact with the African Union mediation team in Addis Ababa as well as with other international partners who are involved in the political process. UNMIS also maintained dialogue with the parties to encourage them to return to the negotiating table and to cooperate with the African Union proposals. Shortly after the appointment of Salim Ahmed Salim as the new Special Envoy of the African Union for the Peace Talks on Darfur, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General travelled to Dar es Salaam and discussed with him measures that could be taken to ensure that UNMIS provided the maximum support possible to the African Union political mediation. The Special Representative participated at the opening of the talks in Abuja and engaged in talks with the parties in order to encourage them to focus on the substantive issues at hand and reach a political agreement soon. UNMIS also has two political staff members at Abuja to support the African Union mediation team.

V. Visit of the Secretary-General to Addis Ababa and the Sudan

60. As the Council is aware, in May I chaired jointly with Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, a meeting in Addis Ababa where the international community committed itself to support an expansion of AMIS to more than 7,000 military and police personnel with the required equipment and resources, including strategic airlift, the flexible use of funds and a planning and coordination capacity. I went from Addis Ababa to the Sudan, where I had meetings with the First Vice-President, Ali Osman Taha, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mustafa Osman Ismail, on a number of issues, including the Security Council resolutions on the Sudan adopted in March 2005, Darfur and African Union deployment to the region. Unfortunately, my scheduled meeting with President Bashir had to be cancelled after a severe sandstorm made it impossible for me to return to the capital before concluding my visit to the Sudan. In addition to pledging its commitment to

cooperate with UNMIS on the status-of-forces agreement, the Government expressed the view that a comprehensive peace agreement on Darfur could be concluded by the end of the year. The decision to resume the Abuja talks on 10 June and the appointment of Salim Ahmed Salim as the African Union mediator for the Darfur talks were also welcome developments.

61. I also met with Chairman Garang in Rumbek, where we discussed, inter alia, the importance of maintaining momentum in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the funding crisis for humanitarian assistance in the south and the importance of resolving the crisis in Darfur. Mr. Garang also confirmed SPLM/A intentions to cooperate fully with UNMIS.

62. While in the Sudan, I travelled to Darfur where I visited Kalma camp in Nyala before proceeding to Labado. During my visit to southern Darfur, where I was accompanied by my Special Representative and the Special Representative of the African Union Chairperson, I met local authorities and had discussions with internally displaced persons. I was particularly moved by a meeting I had with a group of women at Kalma, who were still living in fear despite the marked improvement of living conditions that had come with the arrival of AMIS.

VI. Observations

63. While international support for implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is critically important, the Agreement is first and foremost owned by the two parties and they are fully responsible for its implementation. Their great obligation now is to make this a dynamic and inclusive process. The Government and SPLM/A have developed a strong track record of partnership during the negotiations, as well as in the course of the pre-interim period. The parties now have to prove that they can work together in establishing a new system of governance that is based on full respect for the law, is politically inclusive, transparent and accountable to the people and appeals to their aspirations. The parties were engaged in civil war for more than two decades. They must now overcome the legacy of those years and become partners who, as members of the same Government, will face a daunting task. To achieve this goal the parties must also redouble their efforts to reach out to other political forces in the north and in the south, consulting civil society and ordinary citizens on the course of transformation that they designed in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. UNMIS, led by my Special Representative, will do its utmost to support and promote this process of inclusion.

64. There is a palpable sense of approval of the presence of UNMIS among Sudanese people. They seem to perceive it as a sign of hope that a very long period of suffering, losses and violence is at last coming to an end. In my exchanges with the political leaders of the Sudan, both in the north and in the south, this feeling has been reinforced by an expression of preparedness on their part to extend to UNMIS full cooperation in fulfilling its mandate. Although there have been a number of administrative teething problems over the reporting period, the Mission is confident that they are being overcome.

65. With the arrival of United Nations peacekeepers, expectations that the situation will improve significantly are running high. This requires the special attention, in particular, of external actors. It is now the turn of the international community at large to respond to these expectations. The donor community, which

contributed so much to the success of the peace process led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and strongly reconfirmed its readiness to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Oslo, has now to prove its resolve by providing — in a coordinated and efficient manner — the resources and expertise required to address the challenges of the peace process, as well as recovery, reconstruction and development throughout the Sudan.

66. The expected presence of UNMIS in many parts of the country will have to serve as a catalyst for positive change. This is particularly important in the area of overall security, most significantly implementation of the Permanent Ceasefire Agreement. UNMIS will also focus on providing the parties with support in areas that will contribute to long-term peace and stability, including the urgent task of facilitating the return of millions of internally displaced persons and refugees. The integrated approach adopted by the United Nations in the Sudan will help to ensure that the Organization does its part in meeting the challenges facing the Sudan in the process to reach sustainable peace.

67. The success of the implementation during the first half of the interim period is heavily dependent on respect for the security arrangements and the Permanent Ceasefire, an area in which the role of UNMIS will be crucial. I am therefore concerned about delays in the deployment of some elements of the UNMIS military component. Carefully worked out plans for the deployment were based on a practical assessment of the requirements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, as well as the environmental and security conditions. It will be critical that UNMIS is given sufficient capability to perform at the level assigned to it by the Security Council and anticipated by the parties to the Agreement. I urge those troop-contributing countries that have committed themselves to UNMIS to deploy their forces in a timely manner.

68. As the parties take the first steps in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, it is worth noting that progress made on political issues and ceasefire monitoring will matter little if the lives of ordinary Sudanese do not improve. Conflict has destroyed the economy, infrastructure and services across the Sudan, particularly in the south. Six months into the year, the much hoped for support pledged in Oslo has yet to materialize in any significant form. The commendable preparatory work done so far in the areas of returns, rule of law and institution-building must be rapidly reinforced by large-scale contributions to the United Nations and its partners to produce a peace dividend. Failure to do so could undermine the dynamic created by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. At the same time, it will be important to move efforts, through a coordinated strategy, from relief to recovery and development. In this respect, capacity-building programmes, including those described by the African Union-led joint assessment mission of March 2005, should also be a priority.

69. The tremendous work done by the parties, IGAD, its partners and the United Nations last year, particularly in the area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, must now rapidly be strengthened. As a matter of priority, the parties in their turn should do their best to engage properly with other armed groups in the Sudan and ensure that the national healing process is genuinely inclusive. This will have a positive effect on other challenges of transition, including addressing the specific needs and participation of women in the implementation of the

Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The parties should also mobilize their resources and political will in solving the problems of human rights and protection of the civilian population.

70. In the meantime, the parties to the conflict in Darfur must make every effort to successfully conclude the current round of talks in Abuja. International partners must also continue to provide the African Union mediation with all necessary support, while making clear to the parties that the conflict will only end through political settlement, and that the Abuja talks are the only acceptable forum for achieving this goal. The United Nations, in collaboration with its implementing partners, will continue to assist the African Union Commission in ensuring adequate follow-up to the 26 May pledging conference for AMIS.

71. It is also important to stress that those responsible for the atrocities committed in Darfur will be held accountable for their actions. Impunity will not be tolerated. Subjecting these individuals to the rule of law and due process will send a clear and powerful message that the Sudan is beginning to fulfil the promise of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which envisages a just, prosperous and democratic country where all Sudanese live in safety and in dignity, with full faith in the future.

Annex

United Nations Mission in the Sudan: military and civilian police strength (as at 12 June 2005)

	Military component				
Country	*United Nations military observers*	*Troops*	*Staff officers*	*Total*	*Civilian police*
Australia	1		3	4	
Austria			5	5	
Bangladesh	11	100	14	125	1
Benin	2			2	
Brazil	7			7	
Cambodia	5			5	
Canada			9	9	
China			1	1	1
Croatia			3	3	
Denmark		6	8	14	
Egypt	2		7	9	
El Salvador	2			2	
Fiji	2			2	
Finland			3	3	2
Germany	2		2	4	
Guatemala	6			6	
India		164	5	169	1
Indonesia	4			4	
Italy		3	2	5	
Jordan	3		4	7	1
Kenya			3	3	1
Kyrgyzstan	5			5	
Malawi	7			7	
Malaysia			3	3	1
Mongolia	2			2	
Mozambique	1			1	
Namibia	2			2	
Nepal		223	5	228	1
Nigeria	5			5	1
Norway	2		6	8	2
Pakistan	3		5	8	
Paraguay	6			6	
Peru	8			8	

Country	Military component				Civilian police
	United Nations military observers	Troops	Staff officers	Total	
Philippines					6
Poland			2	2	
Republic of Moldova	1			1	
Romania			3	3	
Russian Federation	5			5	1
Rwanda	6			6	
Spain			2	2	
Sri Lanka					1
Sweden			6	6	3
Switzerland			1	1	
Turkey			3	3	4
Uganda	4			4	1
United Kingdom			3	3	1
United Republic of Tanzania					1
Zambia	9		2	11	
Zimbabwe	5			5	2
Total	**118**	**496**	**110**	**724**	**32**

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Letter dated 23 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We write to convey to you, on behalf of the Governments of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, San Marino, Sweden and Switzerland, our interest in and concern about the process involving the adoption of a new resolution on the protection of children affected by armed conflict.

At the time of the open debate in February 2005, our Governments were genuinely encouraged to hear the many statements of commitment to build upon the positive steps set forth in the Security Council's five existing resolutions on this subject. Since that time, however, we have been troubled by the fact that the Council has yet to adopt a new resolution on this critical issue.

Given how far the Council's resolutions have come to make the protection of children in armed conflict a priority for Member States and the United Nations system as a whole, we have high expectations for this year's resolution. In particular, we would hope that the new resolution will establish a robust mechanism for monitoring and reporting on serious international crimes against children in all conflict settings. It is apparent to all that such a mechanism is long overdue.

The resolution should also include provisions for effectively implementing existing Security Council resolutions, particularly 1460 (2003) and 1539 (2004). In this regard, we support the development of a working group on children and armed conflict that would be tasked to identify appropriate steps to take against parties that continue to use or recruit child soldiers in violation of international law, thereby flouting Security Council calls to stop such violations.

We understand that these are among the points on which agreement has eluded the Council over the past 18 weeks. We would therefore urge the Council to renew efforts to reach agreement on these elements, and to hold the interests of children paramount in the negotiation process so that their protection takes priority.

We believe this is a crucial moment for all of us in preserving the significant gains already made on this issue and in translating those gains into lasting improvements for the millions of children who suffer the horrific effects of armed conflict. We strongly encourage the Council to adopt a bold new resolution without delay.

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We should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Allan **Rock**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

on behalf of:

H.E. Mr. Julian Vila Coma
Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. John Dauth
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Gerhard Pfanzelter
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations

H.E. Ms. Kirsti Lintonen
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

H.E. Dr. Gunter Pleuger
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Christian Wenaweser
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Dirk Jan van den Berg
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations

H.E. Ms. Rosemary Banks
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Johan Løvald
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Gian Nicola Filippi Balestra
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of San Marino to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Anders Lidén
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Peter Maurer
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations

United Nations S/2005/413

Security Council

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24 June 2005
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Original: French

Letter dated 24 June 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Following my recent visit to the Sudan and my briefing to the Security Council on 2 June 2005, I should like to draw your attention once again to the urgent need for additional donor support for that country. While many generous contributions have been made, large shortfalls remain for all sectors and areas of the country. It is expected that the outstanding needs for the remainder of the year — which are to be revised in the coming weeks — will exceed US$ 1 billion. Unless these shortfalls are addressed promptly, I very much fear that grave humanitarian consequences will ensue and that the long-awaited peace may be jeopardized.

The Sudan's humanitarian needs are enormous and are increasing. More than six million people will need emergency food aid in order to survive the next few months. But just as the country enters a period of food shortage, which coincides with the rainy season, the World Food Programme faces a funding shortfall of more than US$ 300 million. We estimate that, in August, operations in the southern and eastern parts of the country and in the transitional areas — which target 3.2 million people — will experience significant interruptions in food supplies.

We have identified areas with alarming malnutrition rates. Some areas are at risk of a disaster similar to the Bahr al Ghazal famine of 1998. Several sectors, including health, water and sanitation which are crucial for saving lives, have not received sufficient donor support.

At the same time, needs are increasing as tens of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are returning to the south and the transitional areas. These are among the poorest and least developed areas in the world and they desperately need assistance — food, water, agricultural supplies, shelter and help with education — in order to be able to absorb those returning to their homes. Voluntary returns are expected to accelerate after the rainy season and to reach 1.2 million this year, so we must start now to position the necessary supplies, build up capacity across the south, set up way stations and repair essential transport routes. None of this can happen without immediate and generous donor support.

In Darfur, the significant progress we have made in addressing humanitarian needs is being jeopardized by inadequate funding. Unless we can continue to expand our operations, conditions in the IDP camps could deteriorate, and more and more people in rural areas may be forced to leave their homes in search of assistance. Many people have already died of hunger in Darfur and malnutrition rates are rising in several areas. This trend must be reversed and our achievements sustained; that

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will require a relief effort of epic proportions. At the same time we must redouble our efforts to meet needs in the east and to mitigate the risk of an escalation of the conflict in that area.

If we fail to meet these challenges now, the political consequences could haunt us for many years. Most worryingly, the great hope for peace in the Sudan as a whole — the Comprehensive Peace Agreement — could be placed in serious jeopardy. The international support needed for its implementation has yet to materialize. A civil administration is urgently needed in the south of the country, not only to begin providing basic services but also to strengthen the peace. If those returning to the south cannot sustain themselves and are forced to leave a second time, people's confidence in the peace will be seriously shaken.

At its historic meeting in Nairobi, on 19 November 2004, the Security Council called for humanitarian assistance to be delivered to the Sudan as soon as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (see Security Council resolution 1574 (2004)) was signed. It has now been more than five months since the Agreement was signed — on 9 January 2005 — and more than two months have elapsed since donors pledged more than $4.5 billion at the Oslo Conference. A large percentage of the pledges made this year have yet to materialize and more pledges for immediate assistance are urgently needed.

Much has been said about the historic opportunity presented by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and about the importance of an immediate peace dividend for its success. It is now time for donors to deliver. The time for setting new challenges or defining new conditions for financing has passed; any further delay will be measured in lives lost and will jeopardize the long-awaited peace.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

United Nations S/2005/414

Security Council

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27 June 2005
English
Original: French

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic

I. Introduction

1. This report is submitted in compliance with the request of the Security Council contained in the Presidential Statement dated 26 September 2001 (S/PRST/2001/25), whereby the Council requested me to continue to keep it regularly informed about the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA). This report covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2005.

II. Political situation

2. The main event was the electoral process, which ended with the holding of the first and second rounds of presidential and legislative elections on 13 March and 8 May 2005 respectively. The Mixed and Independent Electoral Commission received multifaceted support from such external partners as Germany, China, the United States of America, France, Italy, the European Union, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CAEMC) and the CAEMC multinational force, as well as the Economic Community of Central African States and the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF). The Mixed and Independent Electoral Commission also received domestic support from the High Council for Communication and the Group of Elders set up after the intra-Central African talks in Libreville in January 2005 to monitor and guarantee respect for the code of good conduct governing political activity in the Central African Republic. The United Nations system also provided significant support to the electoral process through the constant facilitation role played by BONUCA and through significant technical assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

3. The elections took place in an atmosphere of calm apart from some organizational problems and cases of attempted or actual electoral fraud. Two of the 11 candidates in the first round of the presidential elections, General François Bozizé and Martin Ziguélé, the former Prime Minister, advanced to the second round. In addition, of the 909 candidates (including 135 women) running in the

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legislative elections, 18 were elected in the first round and 325 advanced to the second round.

4. On 24 May 2005, despite allegations of large-scale rigging made by the *Union des forces vives de la nation*, made up of the *Mouvement de libération du peuple centrafricain*, the *Alliance pour la démocratie et le progrès*, the *Front patriotique populaire*, Londô, and supporters of Jean-Jacques Demafouth, the Mixed and Independent Electoral Commission felt that the allegations did not undermine the credibility of the electoral process and went on to announce the final results, declaring elected, in addition to 86 members of parliament, General François Bozizé as President of the Republic with 64.60 per cent of the vote compared to 35.40 per cent for Martin Ziguélé. After considering the requests for annulment submitted to it, the Transitional Constitutional Court confirmed the presidential election results and proceeded with the investiture of General Bozizé as President of the Republic and Head of State on 11 June 2005.

5. The election was observed by a contingent of 297 observers made up of 269 national and 28 international observers working under the technical coordination of OIF. In their joint report, the observers indicated that the shortcomings reported in the presidential and legislative elections were not such as to constitute irregularities. They concluded, therefore, that the electoral process had been free, reliable, fair and transparent.

6. On Friday, 3 June 2005, the new National Assembly, made up of 105 members including 12 women, met to elect its officers and standing committees and to adopt its rules of procedure. There are 11 officers, including three women, headed by Mr. Célestin Leroy Gaoumbalet, the Prime Minister of the last transitional Government, assisted by three vice-presidents including one woman. The new National Assembly is largely dominated by the *Convergence Kwa Na Kwa* party, which supports the Head of State and has rallied the *Parti de l'Unité Nationale*, the *Forum Démocratique pour la Modernité* and part of the *Jeunesse du Rassemblement Démocratique centrafricain* created by former President André Kolingba. They account for 77 of the 105 new Assembly seats. On 11 June, the Head of State appointed Mr. Elie Doté, an agro-economist who headed the Agriculture and Development Division of the African Development Bank (ADB), to the post of Prime Minister.

III. Military and security situation

7. During the period under review, the security situation was a matter of concern, particularly in Bangui and in the northern areas of the country. Some parts of the country experienced renewed attacks by armed gangs operating in the typical fashion of the Roadblockers. Most of the attacks are economic crimes targeting livestock breeders (for their cattle), commercial transport operators or diamond collectors. They set ambushes and, when attacking villages, isolated hamlets or road convoys, even kidnap the children of livestock breeders or dignitaries and demand large ransoms. These attacks have displaced about 800 people to such major Central African townships as Bouar and to nearby countries such as Cameroon and Chad, which have each received more than 5,000 refugees recently.

8. The Central African authorities are extremely concerned that these armed gangs may be used for the political destabilization of the new regime and its defence

and security forces, which seem to lack the staff and resources to deal with such a risk. The situation is impacting neighbouring countries and the rebound is spreading insecurity along common borders, leading in particular to significant population movements and the presence of armed gangs along the border with Chad and, lastly, to the circulation and proliferation of weapons between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.

9. In spite of these threats, the restructuring of the armed forces has continued. France has provided support for the training of three battalions. The BONUCA military team was requested to assist the training centre set up for this purpose, to draft and circulate training modules for officers in peacekeeping operations and international humanitarian law operations. The military team is working with UNDP to implement the project for the reintegration of former combatants and for support to communities, alongside the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission.

10. The military team also participated in the meetings of the National Interministerial Committee set up to report on insecurity in the hinterland. It has carried out many security assignments and missions within the context of electoral monitoring, participated in the work of the National Committee on Good Governance, helped in the drafting of the military justice code and followed the work of the regular session of the Permanent Military Tribunal.

11. The Civilian Police Section of BONUCA continued to monitor the security situation in the capital and in the hinterland. It organized two training sessions as well as two seminars for the national police and gendarmerie. These training courses and seminars focused on the role and responsibilities of the security agencies during the electoral exercise as well as on the maintenance of law and order. A total of 110 policemen and 286 gendarmes were trained.

12. As regards regional cooperation, BONUCA is participating actively in the various stages of the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region. In this context, it supports the Central African Republic which, because of its geopolitical and geostrategic position, was admitted in October 2004 as a full-fledged member of the Conference. The current activities should lead, by the end of this year, to the adoption by the member States of the Conference of a series of action programmes and protocols as well as a Great Lakes Stability, Security and Development Pact.

IV. Economic and social situation

13. The year 2005 may be considered as a turning point in the growth of economic activities in the Central African Republic, which over the last 10 years has unfortunately experienced a steady and significant destruction of its production system so that the average income of citizens declined by 32 per cent over the past two decades. Starting this year, growth is expected to resume in most economic sectors, mainly because of the hopes kindled, firstly, by the recent return to constitutional order and, secondly, by the expected resumption of cooperation between the country and its major donor partners.

14. At the same time, economic activity has remained fragile on the whole. In spite of the gradual improvement in the security situation, the upswing of

agricultural production, the resumption of transport activities and the revival of mining and forestry, economic operators adopted a wait-and-see attitude during the electoral process. The resumption of economic activity expected by the third quarter of 2005 will be neither automatic nor speedy, unless the Government steps up implementation of a group of reforms advocated by the Bretton Woods institutions in 2004 and needed in order to attain the 2.6 per cent economic growth forecast for this year.

15. National public finances are still in a deep crisis, suffering from the lack of good governance, the narrowness of the tax base and the paucity of revenue. By late May 2005, only 25 billion CFA francs in budget revenue had been mobilized, representing 41 per cent of the total forecast of 61 billion CFA francs for the full year. To meet unavoidable expenses, the Government continued to borrow from the banking sector, making the commercial banks' situation precarious.

16. Over the same period, public spending was estimated at 24 billion CFA francs, of which 9.9 billion were used to pay three months' salary due for 2004. By late May 2005, accumulated external arrears amounted to 184 billion CFA francs or 25 per cent of GDP, while the higher level of domestic debt was estimated at 200 billion CFA francs of which salary arrears accounted for 70 billion CFA francs. The State was thus unable to pay its civil servants on time. The liquidity situation was aggravated by the high level of compensation and by unconventional practices of deduction at source.

17. Today the country depends increasingly on budget support from its bilateral and multilateral partners such as France, the European Union, China and CAEMC, to meet its basic needs, which rose from 20 billion CFA francs in 2003 to 46 billion CFA francs in 2004. Given the current pattern of revenue collection, it is clear that the country will not be able to meet its various payment obligations for 2005 without immediate additional budget support, failing which the social situation will be further jeopardized and the results of the electoral process called into question.

18. During the first half of 2005, implementation of the World Bank's Low-Income Countries under Stress (LICUS) Initiative made considerable progress after the delays experienced at the beginning of the Initiative. The activities conducted in this connection involve the provision of social services with an immediate impact on the public, reform of public finances, promotion of good governance and follow-up of the recommendations of the World Bank's high-level leadership seminar. Nevertheless, the lack of appropriate technical skills within the administration continues to pose a major problem for the smooth execution and complete implementation of the Initiative.

V. Humanitarian situation

19. The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate, transforming a situation of extreme poverty into a humanitarian emergency, especially in the four prefectures of Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Grébizi and Kémo. Located in the north of the country on the borders with Chad and Cameroon, these areas were the most affected by the recent crises. In these areas, the resumption of normal activities is also impeded by insecurity, which not only keeps people from going about their normal activities but also makes it difficult for humanitarian workers to reach the vulnerable people.

20. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the Central African Republic covers the period 2004-2006 and focuses essentially on democratic governance, post-conflict reconstruction and recovery and HIV/AIDS. It remains the general framework for United Nations policy in support of operational activities for development in the Republic, in which the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) and Contingency Planning constitute the main humanitarian response instruments.

21. In close cooperation with international non-governmental organizations and with additional funding from Sweden, Norway and the World Bank LICUS initiative, the country team is pursuing its activities to improve access to social services, as a matter of urgency, and to enhance social protection of the most vulnerable segments of the population. Other initiatives have also been launched to improve access to health services, boost school enrolment and revitalize agricultural production in the five prefectures most affected in the northern part of the country, particularly the prefectures of Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Grébizi and Kémo, where more than 25 per cent of the population live.

22. In addition, the United Nations system has stepped up its activities to combat HIV/AIDS and associated diseases, with significant financial support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The capacity of the system agencies to intervene in these and other sectors of vital social importance continued, however, to be hampered by persistent insecurity in the zones concerned, particularly in the border regions and prefectures in the western, northern and eastern regions of the country as well as by a significant decline in funding levels, to the extent that the CAP, requiring an amount of $23 million to deal with the situation facing 1.1 million Central Africans, has so far secured only 6 per cent of the necessary funding.

23. With regard to maternal and child health, three polio vaccination campaigns have been conducted by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) throughout the country. Two other campaigns are scheduled to begin in the third quarter of the year. Generally speaking, the country's institutional capacities have been strengthened in the areas of protection and care and support for orphans and other children living with HIV/AIDS through capacity-building for State structures and non-governmental organizations working in the sector. UNICEF has evaluated a pilot project for the comprehensive development of young children. Plans are being made to scale up the project and transform it into a joint United Nations/European Union project in the Central African Republic.

24. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has also continued its assistance to farmers with the distribution of seedlings in the areas most affected by the recent political and military turmoil, especially in the prefectures of Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Grébizi and Kémo. This assistance was strengthened by the funding received from Sweden for the distribution of seeds and agricultural implements to facilitate the resumption of agricultural production activities. Given the scope of the food deficit, particularly of cassava, resulting from the combined effects of the armed conflicts and insufficient rainfall, approximately 60 per cent of the population and more than 70 per cent of the children are suffering from hunger. International assistance to the agricultural sector is indispensable to prevent a lasting humanitarian crisis.

VI. Human rights situation

25. Serious human rights violations occurred during the first half of 2005, both in Bangui and in the hinterland, undermining people's right to life, freedom of movement and personal safety. Cases of torture and of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, rape, kidnapping and forced disappearances followed by ransom demands and some summary executions were also reported. Similarly, during the electoral campaign, harassment, threats, intimidation and cases of abuse of authority by law enforcement agencies were also noted.

26. The BONUCA Human Rights Section, supported and partnered inside the country by its regional branches in Bouar and Bossangoa, focused on gender. Accordingly, it took an active part, along with the competent national authorities, in organizing workshops and activities to empower women candidates in the legislative elections and canvassing women to vote for them. A national plan is being studied with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with a view to assisting the authorities to articulate a national human rights promotion, defence and protection policy.

27. The BONUCA Information Unit has provided constant support to CEMI in its work of sensitizing, training and educating voters. It helped to produce a series of public broadcasts and teaching tools on the use of the single ballot, voter mobilization, appeals for calm during voting, and respect for the election results and for the commitments variously made. It provided appreciable support to the High Council for Communication and to the country's public and private media practitioners in their efforts and contributions to the electoral process.

VII. General comments

28. The international community was pleased that the elections of 13 March and 8 May 2005 went smoothly on the whole. It praised the mobilization and determination of the Central African electorate on the occasion of this voting. I take this opportunity to offer my sincere congratulations to all the international partners, and particularly France, Germany, the United States of America, China, Italy, BONUCA, UNDP, OIF and the Economic Community of Central African States, which gave financial and/or technical support to the Mixed and Independent Electoral Commission. I should also like to express my gratitude to the CAEMC multinational force for the decisive role that it played in ensuring the safety of the electoral process, supporting the Central African defence and security forces. However, the new authorities, the Electoral Commission and all the partners must learn the necessary lessons, so that local elections in the coming years can be better organized.

29. Now that the emergency situation has ended, the electoral process has been completed and the new institutions are in place, the Central African Republic has the tools needed to embark resolutely on the path of peace, reconstruction and sustainable development. I encourage the new authorities to do everything possible to ensure respect for human rights. It is important for the restoration of trust and reconciliation among the Central Africans that the violators should be brought to justice.

30. After so many years of suffering, instability and destruction of all kinds, however, the new authorities will not be able to deal effectively with the country's precarious social and economic situation unless they receive significant support from the partners, on the understanding that during their five-year term of office they will have to concentrate their efforts on reconstruction activities in all areas of national life. The support of the international community for the action of the Central African authorities is essential for the consolidation of the democratic achievements of recent weeks. I appeal to the good will and generosity of the partners of the Central African Republic, which should provide considerable and immediate financial support to the economic reconstruction effort now under way. Such assistance is particularly necessary because the Central African Republic remains one of the most critical parts of a subregion where peace is still fragile and volatile.

31. The partners' targeted support could focus on strengthening ways of preventing and managing high-risk security situations in the Central African Republic and in the subregion, for instance by extending the mandate of the CAEMC multinational force, increasing support for the restructuring of the Central African armed forces and effectively implementing the multinational demobilization and reinsertion programme and the project for reinsertion of ex-combatants and support to the communities. Similarly, impetus should be given to the contacts established at the highest political level in the Central African Republic, Cameroon and Chad, on possible responses to the direct security threat to the Central African Republic and certain countries of the subregion posed by the armed gangs and other Roadblockers.

32. The United Nations will provide technical and financial support to the transition authorities for the formulation of a poverty reduction strategy. The new Government will have to study it and adopt it as a national policy framework for the post-transition phase of the Republic's social and economic recovery process and as a basis for dialogue with the external development partners. In the spirit of the Millennium Development Goals, this strategy will also constitute the general framework for programming the system's integrated activities in the Central African Republic, bearing in mind the country's evolving development priorities and its efforts to mobilize the necessary resources.

33. I should like to pay a heartfelt tribute to my Representative, General Lamine Cissé, and to the staff of BONUCA and of the entire United Nations system for their dedicated performance of their functions during this particularly important and difficult period.

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Security Council

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27 June 2005

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Letter dated 24 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the People's Republic of China in April 2005 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with other members of the Council. I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of China
to the United Nations

05-40015 (E) 060705

Annex to the letter dated 24 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Introduction

Under the Presidency of the People's Republic of China in April 2005, the Security Council addressed a wide range of issues on its agenda, including Côte d'Ivoire, the Middle East, Bougainville, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Timor-Leste, MINURSO, ICTY, work of 1267 Committee, CTC and 1540 Committee, and the Security Council Mission to Haiti.

During the month of April, the Security Council held 14 official meetings and conducted informal consultations on 11 occasions. It adopted six resolutions and two presidential statements. The President also made five statements to the press on behalf of the Council.

On 4 April, the President briefed the press on the work programme of the Council for this month. The President also held meetings, respectively, with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council, briefing them on the work of the Security Council.

Through its website (www.china-un.org), the presidency published in a regular and timely fashion the programme of work of the Council as well as activities carried out by the Council in April.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 4 April, the Council held a formal meeting and adopted unanimously resolution 1594 (2005), which extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) until 4 May 2005.

On 26 April, the Council held a public meeting on Côte d'Ivoire. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Foreign Minister of South Africa, briefed the Council on the latest developments in the Côte d'Ivoire peace process, especially on the meeting of Ivorian leaders in Pretoria, hosted by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa from 3 to 6 April 2005. The Council members expressed their welcome to the signature of the Pretoria agreement by the Ivorian parties on 6 April 2005, under the auspices of President Thabo Mbeki, and called on all parties to implement fully the agreement. They also commended President Mbeki for the essential role he has played and reaffirmed their full support for his mediation efforts mandated by the African Union.

Central African Republic

On 12 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Lamine Cissé, briefed the Security Council in informal consultations on the significant occurrences in the Central African Republic since January 2005. The Council members welcomed the progress made in the transitional process and the restoration of rule of law in the Central African Republic. In a press statement read by the

President of the Council after the consultations, members welcomed the first round of presidential and legislative elections in the Central African Republic and underlined the importance of the second round of elections scheduled for 1 May.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 7 April, the Security Council heard a briefing from Assistant Secretary-General Annabi on the statement issued by the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) in Rome on 31 March 2005, in which they condemned the 1994 genocide and committed themselves to renounce the use of force and cease all offensive operations against Rwanda. Mr. Annabi also briefed the Council on the latest development of disarmament and community reinsertion (DCR) programme in Ituri.

On 12 April, at a formal meeting of the Council, the President made a statement (S/PRST/2005/15) on behalf of the Council, in which the Council welcomed the encouraging statement made by FDLR on 31 March 2005, called on FDLR to turn its positive words into action and urged the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda to work together, in close cooperation with MONUC, to make use of the chance given to them to contribute to peace and stability in the whole Great Lakes region of Africa.

On 18 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1596, by which the Secretary-General was requested to re-establish, for a period expiring on 31 July 2005, the Group of Experts referred to in paragraph 10 of resolution 1533 (2004), with the addition of a fifth expert for financial issues. Resolution 1596 also extended the scope of the arms embargo to any recipient in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with conditions for exemptions; described measures pertaining to aviation and customs control; and provided for travel restrictions and financial sanctions on all individuals and entities designated by the 1533 Committee as acting in violation of the armed embargo measures.

On 26 April, the Council heard a briefing from Under-Secretary-General Jean-Marie Guehenno on recent political developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the transition is entering a key phase. The possibility for the Council to send a small mission to Kinshasa was discussed; a decision on this matter would be taken at a later stage when the Council deemed it appropriate. The President delivered a press statement after the meeting.

Western Sahara

On 26 April, during informal consultations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara Alvaro de Soto, presented briefly the report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara and updated the recent activities carried out by the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). Mr. de Soto considered that despite the improved political climate in the region a lack of agreement remained and the stalemate in this long-standing conflict had left great humanitarian problems. He stated that MINURSO managed to complete an internal assessment of the state of compliance by the parties with the military agreement and established that there had been a serious deterioration in this regard. Concerning the possibility of reducing the size of the Mission, he indicated that given the situation on the ground MINURSO should be in the position to be able to provide adequate and effective monitoring of

the ceasefire, so he remained convinced that the downsizing of the military component of the Mission would not be advisable at this stage and the current military strength of the Mission needed to be maintained.

On 28 April, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1598, by which the mandate of MINURSO was extended for a period of six months until 31 October 2005, and concepts expressed during the informal consultations of 26 April were reiterated.

Asia

Iraq

On 11 April, the Council heard open briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, and the representative of the United States of America, Anne Patterson. Mr. Qazi introduced the Secretary-General's latest quarterly report, updated the Council on recent developments in the political process and the activities of the United Nations in Iraq. Ms. Patterson briefed the Council on the efforts and progress of the Multinational Force in fulfilling its mandate. The Permanent Representative of Iraq, Samir S. M. Sumaida'ie also delivered a statement. After the briefing, the Council held informal consultations. Afterwards, the President made a statement to the press, expressing the hope that there would be continued progress in Iraq's political transition, urging the Transitional National Assembly of Iraq to proceed on the constitutional process without delay, and stressing the need for this process to be as inclusive, participatory and transparent as possible.

Following informal consultations held on 11 April 2005, members of the Council discussed renaming the agenda item on issues pertaining to Iraq. Council members agreed that issues relating to the return of all Kuwaiti property, the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and remains, and the United Nations Compensation Commission would be considered under the agenda item entitled "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait". All other issues that did not fall into this category would be considered under the agenda item entitled "The situation concerning Iraq". Accordingly, the President issued a note on 18 April.

On 19 April, the Council was briefed at informal consultations by Yuli Vorontsov, the High-level Coordinator on the issue of the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country national or their remains. He presented the latest report on this matter and acknowledged that because of the difficult security situation the issue had not progressed substantially in recent months. Out of a total of 605 cases, the fate of some 280 was still unknown. Of the remains that had so far been returned, only 222 had been identified. He also praised the cooperation of the new Iraqi authority in returning remains and property. Following the consultations, the President issued a statement to the press, voicing confidence that the new Iraqi Government would help resolve the cases of hundreds of murdered Kuwaiti prisoners of war and third-country nationals and calling upon all parties concerned to continue to work towards a satisfactory solution to all of the outstanding humanitarian and property aspects covered by Mr. Vontontsov's mandate.

On 29 April, the President issued a statement to the press, welcoming the formation of the Transitional Government of Iraq envisaged in resolution 1546,

deploring the violence in Iraq and encouraging all the Iraqi political forces to continue the inclusive political process and dialogue in the best interests of the Iraqi people.

Middle East

On 21 April, the Council heard a monthly briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, stated that the revived peace process was still fragile and doubts and suspicions still needed to be dispelled about both Israeli intentions and Palestinian resolve and capabilities. Israel's planned disengagement from Gaza and the northern West Bank would be a landmark in Israeli-Palestinian relations, and he urged both sides to ensure that it happened in a coordinated way and that it would not become a dead end but contribute to the momentum for peace. Mr. Prendergast also touched on the situation in Lebanon. Afterwards, members of the Council held informal consultations and agreed in general with the assessment of the situation by the Under-Secretary-General.

Lebanon

On 7 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1595 (2005), establishing an international independent investigation Commission to investigate the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and calling on all States and parties to cooperate with the Commission fully.

On 29 April, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Terje Roed Larsen, briefed the Council on the first semi-annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004). Mr. Larsen expressed his welcome to the letter from the Government of Syria to the Secretary-General formally notifying him that Syria had completed its withdrawal of all its troops from Lebanon. While stating that the parties concerned had made noticeable and significant progress towards implementing some of the provisions contained in resolution 1559 (2005), Mr. Larsen also said that regarding the implementation of other provisions of the resolution the parties had made no progress. He also noted that a full implementation of all requirements of the resolution would help enable the people of Lebanon and of the entire region to begin setting aside the past. Afterwards, members of the Council held informal consultations.

Bougainville

In the informal consultations held on 7 April, Council members discussed the Secretary-General's report on the Bougainville (Papua New Guinea) peace process and the Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB). The Assistant Secretary-General, Danilo Turk, briefed the Council on new developments since the report was submitted. He reported that the preparation for elections of the first autonomous Government of Bougainville and been conducted satisfactorily, and with the achievement of the objectives within the peace agreement, the UNOMB mandate would have been fully implemented. The Council members welcomed the progress that had been achieved and looked forward to a successful completion of the peace process of Bougainville.

Timor-Leste

The Council held consultations on Timor-Leste on 26 April and heard a briefing on the ground situation by the Secretariat. On 28 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1599 (2005), establishing the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL), a one-year follow-on special political mission that will remain in the country after the completion of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) on 20 May 2005.

Europe

Georgia

On 21 April, during informal consultations, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, briefed the Security Council on the meeting of the high-level representatives of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General on the question of Georgia, held in Geneva on 7 and 8 April, in reviewing the state of the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process.

Mr. Guehenno noted that the Group of Friends had welcomed the participation of the representatives of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides as an indication of their commitment to a peaceful settlement of the conflict and the interest of the parties in pursuing a practical approach to outstanding issues related to security and political matters, the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, and economic cooperation. The Group encouraged the parties to follow up with renewed discussions in the relevant task forces and working groups.

The Americas

Haiti

The fact-finding mission to Haiti, composed by all 15 members of the Council and led by Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg of Brazil, visited the country from 13 to 16 April to review progress achieved in such areas as security, development, the political transition, human rights, institution-building and the humanitarian situation. The mission was carried out in conjunction with the mission of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of the Economic and Social Council. On 20 April, Mr. Sardenberg briefed the Council in a public meeting that the security situation in Haiti had gradually improved since late 2004, and that international assistance as well as national dialogue would continue to be vital for promoting social and political progress in the country.

Thematic issues

Counter-terrorism and non-proliferation

On 25 April, the Security Council held a public meeting at which it was briefed by the Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Council, namely the Al-Qaida/Taliban Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

The three Chairmen, César Mayoral, Ellen Margrethe Løj and Mihnea Ioan Motoc, spoke about the recent work carried out by the Committees and also commented on the progress made, the experience gained and the challenges remaining. The Chairmen also outlined the working plans and priorities of the Committees in the coming months. Members of the Council expressed their appreciation to the Chairmen for the joint briefing and agreed on the relevance of the Committees' respective mandates and the importance of coordination between the three Committees. They encouraged the Committees to increase cooperation among themselves and also with other United Nations bodies, including with the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004). Members also expressed their appreciation to Andrey Denisov for his excellent work during his chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

At the end of the meeting, the Council issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/16), which, among other matters, endorsed the fifteenth 90-day working programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

International Tribunals

On 20 April, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1597 (2005), in which article 13 ter of the Statute of ICTY was amended to allow 27 ad litem judges elected in June 2001 to be eligible for re-election without any change in their entitlements or benefits, and the deadline for nomination of ad litem judges to ICTY was extended for a further 30 days from the date of its adoption upon the request of the Secretary-General in his letter of 11 April 2005.

United Nations S/2005/416

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 June 2005

Original: English

Letter dated 27 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit herewith a letter from H.E. Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, Foreign Minister, regarding the subversive activities and acts of aggression carried out against the Sudan by Eritrea (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 27 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

1. I am writing to you once again concerning a matter about which the Government of the Sudan has frequently complained to your august Council, namely the subversive acts of aggression and sabotage carried out by the State of Eritrea against the Sudan for the purpose of undermining the peace agreement achieved in southern Sudan after arduous efforts and at thwarting the endeavours currently under way in Abuja towards achieving peace and stability in Darfur province.

2. At a time when the Government of the Sudan is exerting intensive efforts on all fronts and at all levels with a view to achieving peace and comprehensive reconciliation throughout the country, I regret to inform you that Eritrea, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, persists in its subversive role designed to destabilize and threaten the national security of the Sudan. In that connection I wish to inform you of the following:

(i) No doubt you have all followed the intensive efforts being made at this time in Abuja towards arriving at a rapid political settlement to put an end to the conflict in Darfur. The Government has sent a fully empowered high-level delegation. In this context, the mediators have put forward a "declaration of principles" document to govern and expedite the negotiation process. Yet Eritrea, which has sent a delegation to Abuja without being invited to do so by the African Union and in spite of the reservations of the Government of the Sudan, has insisted on having its delegation remain in Abuja and on participating in the negotiations as an observer. That delegation has sought to incite the rebel movements, in particular the Justice and Equality Movement, to adopt hard-line positions in order to abort the round of negotiations, and there is no need for us to enumerate the obstacles that the negotiations currently face as a result.

(ii) The Eritrean regime recently organized a number of conferences of Sudanese armed opposition groups in Eritrea, the latest of which was the conference at Rabda, within Eritrean borders, at which the establishment of what is known as the "Eastern Front Organization", made up of the Beja Congress, the Free Lions group and the Darfur rebels, was announced;

The Eritrean regime continues to offer political, training and logistic support to those organizations. Within this context, in recent months the Eritrean regime has set up within its territory a number of camps from which military actions against the Sudan are carried out by those groups. Those camps are the following:

(a) Hadish camp, the main headquarters of armed movements, situated in the Rabda region in Khor Lokobib, approximately 30 kilometres from the Sudanese border;

(b) Homit camp, near Mount Adasir;

(c) Aqayid camp, in the Khor Sawa highlands;

(d) Sha`loti camp, in the Rabda region;

(e) Umm Aloba camp, west of Goloj, in which there are some 2,000 fighters.

(iii) Within the framework of the comprehensive approach including political, humanitarian, social and development aspects being followed by the Government with a view to a resolution of the situation in eastern Sudan in order to complement the peace efforts under way in other parts of the country, on 23 and 24 May 2005 the Government held, in Kassala, a second brainstorming conference on questions relating to eastern Sudan, in which representatives of the people of eastern Sudan belonging to the various tribes, classes and political leanings took part.

On 24 May 2005, as the delegates who had participated in the conference were returning to their home regions in Kassala, Al-Qadarif, and Red Sea states, an armed force comprising elements belonging to the Beja Congress and the Justice and Equality Movement infiltrated the country from Eritrea and abducted three members of the Legislative Assembly from Red Sea state, namely:

a. Tagelsir Widaa Taha Alfadul, from the Port Sudan 5th district, Chairman of the Economic Committee of the Legislative Assembly for Red Sea state;

b. Eissa Alomda Khimisan Moussa, from the Port Sudan 9th district;

c. Mahmoud Osman Idris Hamid, from the Port Sudan 10th district, Chairman of the Services Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

In addition, five soldiers were abducted in the same incident, namely:

a. Police Sergeant Mahmoud Hamid Alfaki;

b. Corporal Abouobaida Mohamed Backeet Jubara;

c. Lance Corporal Hussain Mohamed Tahir;

d. Lance Corporal Zakaria Abdelnabi Ishag;

e. Police Private Hamad Adrop Hamad.

We should draw attention here to the fact that this operation was conducted under the command of the person known as Hamid Elias Taielkarim on direct instructions from the Eritrean General Tekhle Mangos, the official in charge of the Sudanese opposition in Eritrea.

Moreover, the two movements admitted to carrying out the said attack and abduction in official communiqués issued by them (see annex 1).

(iv) Eritrea hosts the headquarters of the command of the opposition National Democratic Alliance. Yet despite this, the Government of the Sudan, in its belief that an all-inclusive peace and national reconciliation are absolutely essential, maintained a constant dialogue with the National Democratic Alliance that ultimately led to the negotiations which took place in Cairo under the sponsorship of His Excellency Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Those negotiations resulted in the signing of a peace agreement between the Government and the National Democratic Alliance on 18 June 2005 in the

presence of Presidents Hosni Mubarak and Omer Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir and of John Garang, Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

It is also regrettable that before the ink could even dry on that agreement, Eritrea spurred armed groups of the Beja Congress and the Justice and Equality Movement to carry out, on 20 June 2005, a treacherous attack on the Delabiyay area, near Toker, which resulted in the following:

Persons taken prisoner and missing:

- First Lieutenant Abdelazim Mohamed Mahmoud taken prisoner
- 35 non-commissioned officers and privates either captured or missing

Persons wounded:

- An officer and 4 non-commissioned officers and privates.

In addition, the assailants gained possession of the following materiel and weapons:

- 1 Land Cruiser pick-up
- 1 107-mm rocket launcher
- 1 82-mm mortar
- 1 B-10 M/D gun
- 1 SPG-9 antitank gun
- 5 60.75-mm mortars
- 6 RPG rocket launchers
- 1 Goryunov machine gun
- 3 12.7-mm Doshka machine guns

Both the Beja Congress and the Justice and Equality Movement claimed responsibility for this attack in military communiqué No. 1 and military communiqué No. 2 and admitted to causing the said casualties and losses (see annex 2).

This treacherous attack, in addition to constituting a direct act of aggression against the Sudan, is also intended to undermine the important agreement signed in Cairo.

(v) The Security Council will grasp better than anyone else that Eritrea's actions to undermine the peace efforts in Darfur and in the Sudan in general, training the Darfurian armed groups that signed the N'Djamena ceasefire agreement and the Abuja protocol on security issues, providing them with arms and military equipment and giving them logistic support for operating from within Eritrea, constitute a clear violation of Security Council resolutions 1556 (2004), 1590 (2005) and 1591 (2005). We refer specifically to paragraphs 7 and 8 of resolution 1556 (2004), which require all States not to supply weapons or training to individuals or non-governmental entities in Darfur.

3. We are surprised by the fact that, while over the past years we have repeatedly submitted complaints, for the sixth time now, to the Security Council regarding the violations and acts of aggression committed by the State of Eritrea, until now, regrettably, the Security Council has not so much as mentioned, much less condemned, those obvious violations of the instruments of international legitimacy. We feel that the Security Council, through its silence in that regard, has encouraged Eritrea to continue to escalate further and further its hostile operations against the Sudan.

4. The subversive activity engaged in by Eritrea with respect to peace efforts in the Sudan and the escalation of direct military operations across the eastern Sudanese border are moving things towards an explosion that it will be difficult to contain and will affect stability in the entire region unless the Council promptly and decisively shoulders its responsibility, adopting measures that can be summed up as follows:

(a) The addressing, by the Council, of an unequivocal message to Eritrea to halt its aggression against the Sudan;

(b) The coercion of Eritrea to comply with the resolutions adopted by the Council concerning the situation in Darfur;

(c) The cessation of military support to armed groups in eastern and western Sudan and the closing of training camps and rear bases for cross-border activity;

(d) The return of the prisoners, missing persons and materiel captured and taken inside Eritrean territory during the attacks of 24 May and 20 June 2005.

5. The Government of the Sudan has evinced the greatest sagacity and self-control and resorted to the Security Council as the highest authority entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security. However, it has run out of patience and is coming to a critical pass where it will find itself forced, in the face of this dangerous escalation, to exercise its legitimate right to defend its sovereignty and its territorial integrity and security, a right that is fully guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Mustafa Osman **Ismail**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Nations S/2005/417

Security Council

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28 June 2005

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Letter dated 28 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward a letter addressed to you from H.E. Mr. Ali Said Abdella, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea, regarding the peace process in the Sudan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmed Tahir **Baduri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Eritrea's historic endeavours to promote the cause of internal peace and stability in the Sudan are well known to merit emphasis. As it will be recalled, Eritrea played a pivotal role in the articulation of the Declaration of Principles (DOP) that were announced in 1994 by IGAD to serve as a framework of solution to Sudan's perennial internal conflicts that had raged incessantly since its independence in 1956.

In the subsequent years, Eritrea worked unreservedly, together with its regional partners and in conjunction with the IGAD Partners Forum, to persuade the Government of the Sudan and the SPLM/A to advance the cause of peace through the implementation of the DOP.

When a new round of peace talks resumed in Kenya in 2002, at first in Machakos and later in Naivasha, under the auspices of IGAD but with the active involvement of the United States, Norway and the United Kingdom, Eritrea recognized the critical leverage embodied in the combined initiative and exerted all necessary efforts to ensure its success, Eritrea's envoy to the peace talks contributed his share to the success of the tortuous negotiations. Eritrea further used its historic and excellent ties with the SPLM and NDA to help lubricate the negotiations and to bring about a lasting peace to the Sudan hinged on justice and the equality of all its constituent parties.

The horrendous crimes committed by the Government in Khartoum in Darfur and the atrocities and injustices it has continued to perpetrate in the eastern and other underprivileged sections of the country in spite of the Naivasha Peace Agreement have remained a cause of concern to the Government of Eritrea and the international community as a whole. While concrete negotiations are a matter for the Sudanese protagonists, Eritrea has all along maintained that enduring peace in the Sudan will be realized through the consolidation of the Naivasha Peace Agreement and the extension of its underlying principles to similar cases of injustice. In this spirit, Eritrea has exerted constructive efforts in the parallel peace negotiations held in Libya and Nigeria recently between the government of the Sudan and Darfur opposition movements.

Eritrea's constructive engagement in, and positive contributions to, the peace process in the Sudan emanate from its historic and good-neighbourly ties with the peoples of the Sudan as well as its recognition of the ramifications of durable peace in the Sudan to regional stability and security. Eritrea's constructive engagements in the Sudan have never been prejudiced by reactive considerations for counterbalancing the irresponsible and provocative conduct of the NIF regime in Khartoum, which had pursued throughout the year a regional and international agenda of destabilization. Eritrea recognizes that these are problems of the past since the implementation of the Naivasha Agreement will render the NIF's fundamentalist agenda obsolete. In this context, groundless accusations leveled against Eritrea by elements in the current NIF Government are either pretexts put forth in order to derail the entire peace process and renege from its commitments or deliberate diversion to foment problems in the region.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ali Said **Abdella**
Minister